Rowland Freeman
Regulbium, a poem
Canterbury
1810

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REGULBIUM
A
POEM,
WITH AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF
RECULVER.

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RECULVER CHURCH,
(from the North West) as it appeared in November 1809.

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REGULBIUM,
A Poem,
With an Historical and Descriptive Account
OF THE
ROMAN STATION
AT
RECULVER, IN KENT.

By R. FREEMAN.

Omnia tempus edax depascitur, omnia carpit;
  Omnia sede movet, nil sinit esse diu.
Flumina deficiunt, profugum mare littora siccat,
  Subsidunt montes, et juga celsa ruunt.
Qui tam parva loquor? moles pulcherrima cæli
  Ardebit flammis tota repente suis.
Omnia mors poscit; lex est, non pæna, perire!
  Hic aliquo mundus tempore nullus erit.
SENECA.

Canterbury:

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1810.

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PREFACE.

Every thing connected with ancient Rome, however mean and trifling in itself, derives from that connection dignity and importance. I should accuse that man of want of feeling or of taste who could for the first time at least contemplate a Roman tile, or a Roman denier, without emotion,

> 'With easy force it opens all the cells
> Where memory slept,'

The subjects of our earliest studies; the history of ancient Rome, her wars, her conquests, and her gran= deur; the great and illustrious characters she produced; her poets, her orators, and her historians, all pass in review before the imagination. From associations of pleasing ideas the mind of man derives its most exqui= site sensations; Cowper beautifully illustrates this truth, by the effect of the music of village bells upon a mind of sensibility.

> —— 'Wherever I have heard
> A kindred melody, the scene returns,
> And with it all its pleasures and its pains:
> Such comprehensive views the spirit takes,
> That in a few short moments I retrace,
> As in a map the voyager his course,
> The windings of my way, through many years.'

Britain was a province of the Roman empire from its conquest under Julius Cæsar, until the time of Ho= norius, during a space of near five hundred years It is reasonable to expect, in this long interval of time, that the country would be covered with the works of a people, remarkable for their magnificence and fondness for architectural embellishments.

We, however, look in vain, for the remains of splendid temples, or elegant villas, for sculptured columns, or animated statues. And here I cannot deny myself the pleasure and my readers, who have not the original, the gratification of an extract of some length from the best work on the subject of Roman antiquities in Britain which this country has to boast: –

'Besides the great military remains of Roman grandeur, to which may be added the wall of Severus, and their admirable roads; there are very few of any kind now visible in this country.'

'A few fragments of public baths, and a few traces of villas, a few mutilated figures and statues, some tes= sellated pavements; small votive altars; and funeral in= scriptions are all the marks of their once fancied great= ness and splendour. And surely had there been any other kind of existing specimens of their magnificence, had there ever been superb buildings of stone or brick, some other distinguished fragments of such must have remained, as well as those few that have from time to time actually been discovered at Bath; or preserved at Dover or at Leicester; or in the walls of the castra at

Richborough, Portchester, or Pevensey; or near the great wall of Severus.'

'To take it for granted that such did exist, but were

destroyed by the Saxons or Normans, is surely hardly allowable, for where any considerable parts of Roman structures have really ever been removed, and taken away either by the Saxons or Normans, there seldom fails to be evidence of such facts, from the appearance of the Roman brick used in the succeeding Saxon or Norman works; as at Colchester Castle and the abbey of St. Albans.'

'If even the most trifling parts of their structures, such as tessellated pavements, and the very flues of their stoves, have remained, in the perfect state we now find so many of them; surely it may with good reason be asked, how it came to pass that the greater and more substantial parts (if any such there ever were) should have left no traces; and the plain conclusion must be, that in general the superstructures were at best slight, and often of wood; and not like those very few stately edifices, whose remains have really been found so long preserved any where; either at Bath, or at Leicester, or at Can= terbury, or at Dover.'

'As, by accounts given by contemporary authors of Roman camps, we must conclude that within the great wall of the inclosure at Richborough, there were, except the Pretorian, only small tents, soldiers' huts, and wooden hovels; so indeed we may fairly conclude, that even upon the various tessellated pavements that

have been discovered, there were in general no build= ings of any very extraordinary kind, but only such as were slightly built, and for the most part only one story high; and often constructed of timber; and that their houses in general in this country, except a nest of small chambers, contained not much more than one good room, for the accommodation either of a Centurion, a Tribune, or of any resident Roman.'

'Deep rooted prejudices, and the ignorance of an= cient manners, that attended the first dawnings of lite= rature, and that ever attend that early period of life, in which we all most usually read the classic authors, have taught us to think very highly (and indeed much more highly than we ought to think) of the magnificence and elegance of the Romans in all respects. But in truth whoever considers how few remains on record are to be found of their ever having enjoyed the elegant con= veniences and comforts of life in their domestic si= tuations, notwithstanding the pomp and magnificence of their public works, will be cautious not to be misled in his ideas by the fragments of ancient baths or of ancient temples, any more than by the idle tales of the extra= vagant and filthy dishes of the table of Hiliogabalus; and when the contemplative mind considers, that it is only in a very few instances, where any solid remains of strength bespeak the existence of any extraordinary structure, even near the very fragile tessellated pave= ments that have nevertheless been so well preserved; it will be led unavoidably to conclude, that really mag=

nificent mansions, did not in this country commonly exist. And that in most instances, a Roman Questor or Tribune, sitting here in his Toga, upon his move= able Sella, or wallowing in his Triclinium (with ideas

well illustrated by the tessellated pavements described by Pliny) on one of those dull, dark, and at best ill-looking works of Mosaic, did not after all, appear with much more real splendour, than an old Scotch Laird in the Highlands, sitting in his plaid, on a joint stool, or on a chair of not much better construction, in the corner of his rough rude castle tower, or of his as rude summer tent, where he was attended by his bag piper, who had derived his art (as we have seen in the instance of the bronze bag piper, dug up at Richborough) from the very music practised in the Roman armies, and be= fore Roman officers.'

'These observations may perhaps appear a little too harsh, but they are really somewhat needful, to counterbalance the unreasonable prejudices that have been too often formed, and for elucidating the truth, as founded on facts that are unquestionable.'/1

Reculver, in Kent, the subject of the following pages, was one of the most important Roman military posts in Britain. It was in all probability one of their earliest stations, and we are assured that it contained a Roman garrison, in the time of Theodosius the younger, when their power here was on the decline. From these causes, and owing to the numerous discoveries of coins

/1 King's Munimenta Antiqua, vol. 2, page 162.

and antiquities which have at different times been made, aided not a little by the romantic situation of its vene= rable ruins, Reculver has long been a favourite object, with the antiquarian and the man of taste. What little is known of its ancient history, has repeatedly been told in a variety of publications, and many detached ac= counts have been given of its remains, and of antiquities accidentally found there; but I am not aware, that any collected account of it has been published separately, and in a portable and convenient form. To supply this deficiency, the following little work is offered, and I trust it will be found to contain every thing relating to its subject, which may be thought interesting or amus= ing to the general reader.

For the introductory poems some apology may per= haps be expected; I have, however, but little to offer. They contain the first attempts of the writer, in that line of composition, and will in all probability be the last. The Fragment is a feeble attempt to describe in words a scene, the grandeur and beauty of which defy alike the utmost exertions of the poet and the painter, and to be duly appreciated must be seen. The sub= ject of the longer piece might in abler hands have pro= duced a poem deserving the attention of the public. And here I might with seeming propriety imitate the common practice of poetasters, and plead want of leisure and untoward circumstances, for the faults of my essay. I will be guilty of no such subterfuge. I am not aware that I could produce a better poem, with the utmost

leisure, and under the most favourable circumstances. The present attempt would never have seen the light, had I not been engaged to compile an account of Re= culver, to which I have added it, in the hope, that if it

has any merit, it may tend to enliven the dry detail of historical and antiquarian facts. It occupies but a short space, being closely printed, and does not materially increase the charge made for the book.

ERRATA.

Page 18, line 5, for ‘print’ read paint
— 47, line 2, for ‘VELETIS’ read VELITIS
— 52, line 4 from the bottom, for ‘least’ read best
— 70, line 5 from the bottom, omit ‘and’
— 73, line 11 from the bottom, for ‘an’ read in

<xii>

—— Sic toties versa es fortuna locorum,
Vidi ego, quod fuerat quondam solidissima tellus,
Esse fretum: vidi factas ex æquore terras.
Si quæras Helicen et Burin Achaidas urbes.
Invenies sub aquis; et adhuc ostendere nautæ
Inclinata solent cum moenibus oppida mersis.’
Ovid. Met. Lib. 15.

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A FRAGMENT.

To explain the opening line of the annexed Poem, the following Fragment is reprinted from the Kentish Gazette, where it appeared March 28, 1809:–

Scene – The beach at Reculver. – Time – Sun-set.

Slow sinks the sun, towards the western main
Marking the close of day; while all around
Fir’d with his settling beam, refulgent shines:
Th’ unruffled surface of the deep presents
A spangled track, what seems in fancy’s eye
A glittering causeway, pav’d with burnish’d gold;
The distant headlands, starting into view,
Seem tipp’d with flame; and yonder far seen bark
Slow as she moves, majestic, on her course,
With all her canvas set to court the breeze,
Her broad sails, high above th’ horizon rais’d,
Bright with reflected rays, shines like the moon.
Stillness reigns here; save that the restless surge
For ever beating on the pebbly shore,
Yields a soft murmur to th’ well pleas’d ear;
Or where on wide expanded pinions born
The sea mew wheels, horse-screaming as she flies.
Emblem of human greatness, youthful dreams

xiv

Lo while I gaze enraptured on the scene,
Its glories vanish! prone beneath the wave
The day-star drops; no more the dancing rays
Play on the deep, nor gild the jutting cape;
No more the distant bark with outspread sail,
Shines like the moon, in borrowed lustre bright.
Welcome soft twilight, pensive gloamin/1 hour
Dear to the muse, to meditation dear;
Now let me stray along the level sand,
And as around me every object wears
Thy garb of sober grey; let me forget
Awhile the busy anxious cares of day.
Ye mouldering walls, and venerable tow’rs,
Which late I saw, gay with the setting sun,

This solemn tint becomes ye, better far;
For ye have reached the winter of your age:
And lo, a gulph wide-yawning at your feet
Presents your destin'd grave: O ye have seen
Far other days than these; and the rapt muse
Retracing back the lengthened stream of time,
Delights to paint ye, in your earliest years;
When Rome's imperial ensigns proudly wav'd
Above your summit, and her conquering host
Repos'd beneath your shelter; when your gates
Pour'd forth her glittering legions, bright in arms
And flush'd with conquest. —

/1 Evening. – A beautiful word of Scottish origin, frequent in the works of Burns.

<1>

REGULBIUM.
A POEM.

Once more ye mould'ring walls with ivy clad,
Ye crumb'ling relicks of antiquity,
I greet ye with a verse; once more I tread
With mournful reverence your sacred bounds,
And view your scatter'd fragments strew'd around!
And thou fair monument of piety,
Rear'd in a distant and more pious age,
Whose sister spires raise high their stately forms
To guide the seaman, and to grace the view,
Thee too I hail! – long hast thou born the rage
Of elements combin'd to work thy fall;
Long have the raving winds and dashing tides,
The iron-armed frost, and driving rain,
With all their dread artillery essay'd
To lay thee in the dust; they strove in vain!
Still firm thou stand'st, tho' torn with many a rent
Deform, and many an honour swept away.
Thy gilded crests which to the playful breeze
Once proudly wav'd, forc'd from their centres hang
Supine and pendant, and the leaden mail
Which sheath'd thine elegant and graceful form,
Rent from its station, by the windy war,
Hath left thy ribs, bare to the angry blast

2

Which whistles through them. Many a gaudy pane
Rich with heraldic ensigns, many a range
Of battlements, and pinnacles sublime
And sacred symbols, have bestrown the ground.
Still rugged as thou art, enough remains
To prove that grandeur in thy early years,
And beauty in the prime of days was thine.
So stands the shatter'd vet'ran worn with war,
Magnificent in ruin, hack'd and torn
And scarr'd with many a wound, the honest proofs
Of youthful vigour, and of well-fought fields.
Deserted by the power which rais'd thee up
Though even now, thou noddest to thy fall,
And the firm earth in which thy basement rests
Trembles beneath thee, sapp'd and undermined;
Though at thy feet a precipice immense
Gapes fearfully, and points thy future grave;
Though at each period when the changeful moon
Renews her wasted horn, and when her lamp

Shines with full splendour on the brow of night
And ocean swells, urg'd by mysterious power;/1
Then should the angry north-wind chance to blow
With its accustomed fury, and impel
The foaming tide, down from the crumb'ling cliff
Huge masses fall, and strew the beach beneath.
Yet shall not these thine ancient foes prevail

/1 It may be necessary to inform a few of my readers, that the tides which take place at the full and change of the moon, rise to a greater height than at other times; – these tides when accompanied by a strong north wind have been the means principally of undermining and washing away the spot on which the ancient town of Reculver stood. The emi= nence on which the church and castrum stand, being a sand hill, offers no resistance to the waves.

3

Nor triumph in thy fate; man's pow'rful arm
Which rais'd thee at the first shall lay thee low./1
So sinks the man of virtue whom the blast
Of stern adversity hath long assailed
And shook his blooming honours to the dust;
Above the storm he lifts his hoary head,
Undaunted by its fury, firm upheld
By strong integrity, he stands erect;
But when the summons of his God goes forth,
He bows at once resigned, and sinks to rest.
Nor shalt thou fall, for fall thou must, unmourn'd, –
Nor if my efforts can avail, unsung;
For I shall miss thee in my custom'd rounds
O'er Thanet's fertile heights, whence oft mine eyes
Ranging the wide extended prospect round,
Have fixed with exquisite delight on thee
The fairest object in the ample view./2 –
Have mark'd thy elegant and graceful form;

/1 It has been for some time past in agitation, and is now I am in= formed determined upon to take down the Church, for the sake of its materials without delay; how much better would the determination have been, when it was practicable at no very great expence, to have em= ployed some well-directed means for its preservation; unfortunately what has been done with this intention has only accelerated the downfal of this devoted building. Many years ago a large quantity of sand stone was brought and thrown without order or method upon the beach; this very injudicious attempt only occasioned a more violent surf than would other= wise have taken place, and the overthrow of the cliff has in consequence been more considerable since that time.

/2 Few objects have at a distance a more imposing or picturesque effect than Reculver Church. It is indebted for this principally to the pecu= liarity of its structure, and its situation on an eminence upon the very border of the sea; the south wall of the Roman castrum covered with ivy adds considerably to the effect, though unnoticed, as it affords at all sea= sons a depth of shadow and richness, to the hill upon which the build= ing stands. In Reculver church, the Isle of Thanet will lose its greatest ornament.

4

Bright with the orient beam of early day,
Or cloath'd with shadow dark at evening hour;
Gay with the fleeting light from opening clouds,
Or wrap'd in vapours dense, and dimly seen.
Thee too the Shepherd on the plain shall mourn,
For taught by thee he knows the noontide hour,
And seeks his humble home, and rustic fare./1

The Seaman too shall miss thee on the wave,
When homeward steering from some distant land,
From the tall mast his eye exulting views,
Each well known object of his native shore,
Which seems to greet him as he passeth by
With welcome to his home; whate'er it be
Square tow'r or pointed spire, or guarded fort,
Or beacon blazing in the midnight hour,
Or knoll of lofty trees, or verdant cape,
Or mill slow moving to the gentle breeze.
No more the trav'ller on the wat'ry way,
Who to yon town for health or pleasure speeds,
Shall hail thee with delight, well pleas'd to view
Thy spires refulgent with the setting sun;
No more when wilder'd in his mazy course,
The careful Pilot dreads his secret foes,
Thy friendly aid shall warn him to avoid
The sands, and lurking rocks and shallows drear./2

/1 This is a literal fact, I have been informed by the inhabitant of a cottage, situated in the centre of the marsh, whose employment it is to look after the cattle, that he always knows the time of day if the sun shines upon Reculver church, by the shadows, and that he is in the habit of setting his clock by the same object.

/2 The spires of Reculver church have for ages been considered sea marks, of considerable importance to prevent accidents upon the various

5

One common fate attends, alike on man
And all his mightiest works; a few short years
He flourishes in vigour, flush'd with health,
Proud of his strength, his beauty, or his power;
But in his hour of prime his noon-day boast,
Disease, or accident, or ruthless war,
Too oft consigns him to the narrow tomb:
Exempt from these, old age with hasty step
O'ertakes him in his course, his beauty fades,
His strength declines, and bending to the earth,
He sinks at length, beneath the hand of death.
So with his works; proud monuments of art,
With wonder view'd, awhile they grace the scene,
But tempest, fire, or all consuming war,
Or man's caprice, or times devouring hand,
Destroys them, leaving 'not a wreck behind.'
Where now is Babylon renowned of old,
The wonder of the world, the powerful seat
Of eastern empire, where her massy walls,
Her pendant gardens, and her palaces? –
Scene of heroic contest, and of song
Not less heroic, where is mighty Troy? –
In vain the learned traveller explores,
In vain he seeks for relicks where they stood, –
Or where presumption fondly deems they stood, –
Dissolved and gone, no ruins mark their site.

shallows with which the entrance to the Thames abounds, – this import= ance has been said, however, to be much lessened of late years by the shifting of the sand, which an inspection of the pilots' charts seems to confirm: at all events their value as sea-marks, has not induced the guar= dians of those objects to interest themselves in their preservation.

6

Carthage the rival of imperial Rome,
And Tyre the proud emporium of the world,

Robb'd of their former splendour strew the plain,
Or glut the fury of the angry wave:
And thou Regulbium though less known to fame,
Though no proud page of history records,
No poet celebrates thy early pomp;
Yet in thy day the seat of Roman arms,
And Saxon royalty,/1 thou too hast lost
Thine ancient splendour; nought remains of thee
But these rough walls, and this neglected pile,
Which long assail'd by potent enemies,
Are doom'd to fall by other power than time;
And the next age shall seek thy site in vain,
Overthrown and sunk beneath the whelming wave.
But though no local monuments remain,
And ocean occupies thy former site;
Yet shall some tokens of thine ancient state,
Descend to future ages, and be shewn,
In cabinets of antiquarian wealth;
For lo, yon group slow moving on the beach,
With tatter'd garments, floating in the wind,
Congenial with the scene, whose searching eyes
Intently fixed upon the yellow sand,
There frequent find, wash'd by the briny wave,

/1 It is a curious fact, that Reculver, though certainly one of the earliest and most considerable Roman stations in Britain, is only noticed once and that in a very slight manner by any of their writers. – (See Ap= pendix.) – When deserted by the Romans, Reculver must have been a town of some importance, for hither Ethelbert King of Kent, under the Saxons, chose to transfer the seat of his government from Canterbury; it continued from his time to be the Royal residence of the Kings of Kent, until the dissolution of the Saxon heptarchy.

Relicks of ancient Rome, and ancient days;/1 –
For rich in buried treasure is the soil
By winds and tides o'erthrown; – full many a coin
Impress'd with Cæsar's image, gold or brass,
Or silver, or electrum, swells their store;
Full many an implement of little worth
Original, but precious made by time,
And rich with verdant rust, repay the search.
These when the curious traveller arrives
Their rude possessors bring, well pleas'd to change
Relicks of ancient Rome, for British pence,
Cæsar for George, or silver roundels smooth
Without impress, current, though never coin'd./2
Guided by history's directing hand,
'Tis pleasing to pursue the mazy course
Of time through all his wanderings, and behold
With fancy's eye, the scenes of other years;
To steep the present in oblivion's stream,
And fill the soul with visions of the past; –
With history's wand to raise the mighty dead,
To scan their actions and to mark their course; –
To trace the progress of the human mind
From its first infant weakness to the growth
Of full maturity, and manly strength;

/1 The children of the few remaining villagers are anxiously employed after every fall of the cliff, in searching for coins, &c. which being washed from the soil, are left upon the sand at the ebb tide. It is astonishing the quantity of coins collected in this manner, they are mostly of the lower empire, though occasionally some are found in good

preservation of the early emperors. – (See Appendix.)
/2 The present state of the smaller silver money of this country is a dis=
grace to it.

8

To watch the tide of empire, view its rise
Its fulness, its decline and lowest ebb. –
But 'tis the poet's privilege to fill
The frequent void in the recording page,
With legendary tale, in semblance meet
Of times gone by, and manners seen no more; –
To quit the broad and beaten track of truth,
For devious paths where airy phantoms glide; –
To seize the hasty and imperfect sketch,
Long since by history drawn, and now obscur'd
By the dull touch of time; with master hand
To trace the feeble outline, and restore
With colours bright and pure the fading scene. –
Such mighty master of the sounding line
Tuneful Mæonides thy wondrous task;
Such thine sweet bard of Mantua, and such thine
Harmonious Milton, boast of Britain's isle
Equal to one in fate, to both in fame.
Even here, – where Roman labours strew the ground,
Where the rude walls glow with their works of art,/1
And oft the buried relick starts to day,
Meet scene for inspiration, – might the bard
Enraptured stray, and born on fancy's wing
With rapid flight, back to a distant age,
The first faint dawn of British record, speed.
When haughty Julius by ambition fir'd,

/1 This phrase may require explanation. – By works of art here are meant
only Roman bricks, which abound in the walls of the church; they are
certainly works of art, and of an art either forgotten or carelessly prac=
ticed at this day. A Roman brick is in every particular infinitely superior
to a modern one.

9

Led to the sea-girt shore of Albion's isle,
Rome's conquering eagles, and her martial host,
In search advent'rous of a land unknown,
And foes untried in fight;/1 – or, – if perchance
He deem the conquest of his native land
A theme unseemly, for the British muse, –
When brave Caractacus with dauntless breast
Led to the unequal fight his country's pow'r. –
Illustrious chief, first on the deathless roll
Of heroes British born, a numerous band!
Or when the warrior queen indignant sought,
For crimes of blackest dye, the vengeance due,
And with her own blended her country's wrongs;
Nor unrevenged; awhile the vet'ran power
Of faithless Rome, shrunk from her rage appall'd;
But discipline prevailed, nor could the sword
Of justice self, when wielded by the arm
Of rude unpracticed bravery avail./2
From such foundations might the favour'd bard
Raise the proud structure towering to the skies
In Epopoean majesty sublime.

/1 The invading army of Julius Cæsar according to the best authorities
landed at Deal, and it is extremely probable that the famous stations of
the Rutupiæ were either selected by himself, or by his immediate suc=

cessors in Britain.

/2 It has been too much the practice of our historians to bestow some pains, in order to convince their readers that the natives of Great Britain were, when visited by Cæsar, savages of the rudest kind; it must be ac= knowledged that some of the observations of that great man favour this opinion, but others no less decidedly contradict it. It is a difficult matter with so few facts to judge from, to arrive at a just conclusion; but surely if the character of a people may be known from that of their chief, the Britons in the days of Caractacus were very far removed from a state of barbarism. The picture of that chieftain, as drawn by the master hand

10

For me a lighter task, content to twine
A votive wreath, of mournful cypress form'd,
And ivy never-sear, and fun'ral yew,
Meet offering to adorn the mouldering fane.
Or on the hallow'd turf at ease reclined,
Beneath yon venerable turret's shade,
To sketch with hasty hand the spreading scene. –
Ocean no longer chaff'd by angry winds,
Serene and smooth, and with unwrinkled front,
Reflecting each light cloud, slow-moving o'er
Impell'd by gentle winds; – the distant brig,
Bearing her sable freight from northern mines,
Fix'd motionless, with every sail outspread; –
The long indented shore, with frequent bay,
And chalky cape projecting to the main,
Shewing like broken front of battle-line,
When dastards shrink dlsmay'd and leave the brave,
Unaided to sustain the victor's rage; –
The glittering town far in the distance seen,
Where rests the sun beam, from an opening cloud;
Whose shatter'd mole, no longer braves the deep
With idle boast, taught to confess the pow'r
Of winds and waves combin'd in dire array./1 –

of Tacitus, exhibits as far as it goes the lineaments of a perfect hero. In reading Roman historians, allowance should be made for their prejudices and national pride, which induced them to esteem and denominate the rest of mankind indiscriminately barbarians. The conduct of the Ro= mans towards the British queen Boadicea savoured much more of barba= rity, than any of her subsequent actions which are recorded. If Carac= tacus was a hero, Boadicea was also a heroine of the first rank. This is perhaps a trite, but it is a pleasing portion of our history, and it has often occurred to me as capable of furnishing the outlines of a national epic poem.

/1 The town of Margate still exhibits marks of the devastation com= mitted by the violent gale of January 1808, when the pier, and the

11

The village spire, the scatter'd mansions round,
And cultur'd slopes, of Thanet's fertile isle; –
The level plain usurp'd from oceans realm,
Where Roman navies rode in days of yore,
Now cloath'd with verdure rich, and spotted thick,
With flocks new-shorn, and many a grazing herd; –
Thy isle Toliapis,/1 with gentle swell
Rising majestic from the wat'ry waste;
Whence from the port unseen with awful sound,/2
Britannia's thunder loads the passing gale,
And rolls tremendous round the hollow shore.
O Britain! O my country! when I view
From the tall cliffs which bound thy favour'd land,
The vast expanse of ocean, where thy sails

Glitter like gems upon its ample breast;
Or when I gain the well known eminence,

jetty erected at a vast expence by the town's people were nearly de=
stroyed. In consequence of a petition to Parliament £5000 was voted
by government to repair the damage, but this sum was, as I have been
informed very inadequate to the loss. Within these few months the in=
habitants have procured an act to enable them to improve and inlarge
their harbour, and render their town more secure. – A circumstance which
took place during the storm above alluded to, deserves perpetual remem=
brance, as exhibiting a remarkable instance of fortitude and the force of
military discipline. A militia soldier who was stationed at the extremity
of the pier as a centinel on that fatal night, refused to quit his post during
the storm, and having lashed himself to the post of the lanthorn, which
fortunately was the only erection on the pier not carried away by the
waves; he remained in that perilous situation until the fury of the gale
abated: it would not be an easy task to describe in adequate language,
the horrors with which he was surrounded.
/1 Sheppy so called by Ptolemy.
/2 Sheerness, and the naval station called the Nore.

12

Where royal William erst delighted stood,/1
And pause to view the wide extended scene;
But chief the spot where marshall'd in array,
In proud supremacy and regal pomp,
Thy guardian navy rides;/2 – through whose tall masts
Which like a forest cover all the deep,
Appears that hostile land,/3 whose haughty sons,
Threaten to bear destruction to thy shores,
And drench thy plains with blood; vain empty boast! –
A secret exultation swells my heart,

/1 King William's Mount, or Mount Pleasant in Thanet, where tradi=
tion says, William the 3d who was accustomed to sail from Margate, in
his excursions to the Continent, and was frequently detained by contrary
winds for some days at Queax in Thanet, resorted to admire the extent
and grandeur of the prospect; and certainly few situations can boast a
more ample view, or a more interesting assemblage of objects. Standing
on the brink of the ancient chalk pit, called by the monkish historians
Thunnor's Leap, in the extreme distance to the left appears the French
coast seen through the famous naval station of the Downs; on the oppo=
site side the coast of Essex is also visible in clear weather; between these
interesting objects the eye surveys an extensive portion of the fine country
of East Kent, on which appear the several towns of Canterbury, con=
spicuous by its grand cathedral tower, Sandwich and Deal; the villages
of Woodnesborough, Ash, Stourmouth, Chislett, and Reculver; the ban=
queting house of Waldershare; Knowlton, the ancient seat of the Nar=
borough and D'Aeth families, conspicuous by its knoll of trees; the flag
staff of Dover castle; the Rutupian harbour of the Romans, and the
remains of their castrum at Richborough. In the fore ground the beau=
tiful level of marsh land, formerly an estuary, spreads itself to the view,
spotted with cattle, and intersected by the ramifications of the river Stour
which flows through it. At the foot of the hill, on which the spectator
stands, are the villages of Minster and Monkton, embedded in lofty trees.
Looking northward the whole isle of Thanet with its several villages and
the town of Margate, presents itself, bounded by a distant view of the
sea, including the Queen's Channel, which being the road to London is
generally covered with shipping.
/2 The Downs.
/3 France at all times visible in clear weather.

13

That I was born within thee, and possess

My portion of that safety thou enjoy'st.
O favour'd Albion; what a weighty debt
Of gratitude thou ow'st the Almighty power,
Who form'd thee as thou art, begirt with waves;
Or, if as philosophic sages deem,
Thou once wast wedded to that hostile land,/1
Who bade the elemental storm arise,
Which with a whirlwind's fury swept away
The frail connexion, and destroyed thy bonds; –
Who taught thy hardy sons the happy skill,
To rear thy floating bulwarks, and direct
Their vent'rous journies o'er the wat'ry way; –
Who in the hour of battle nerves their arms
And with a confidence of victory,
Inspire their souls, to court the bloody fray.
Still howls the blast of war, and through the realms
Of ravag'd Europe, mad ambition drives
His desolating car;/2 still at the call
Of tyrant chieftains, thousands blindly rush
To arms, and with a causeless rage inspired,
Burst like a torrent o'er the peaceful plains: –
Havoc and devastation and despair,
March in their train, and mark their bloody course.

/1 It is the opinion of Twine, Somner, and most of the Kentish anti= quarians, that Great Britain was originally united to the continent of Europe, by an isthmus extending between Dover and Calais; which they imagine being constantly assailed by the boisterous waves of the northern sea, was in the end washed away. To the destruction of this isthmus, they attribute the formation of the different levels of marsh land on the Kentish coast, formerly occupied by the ocean.
/2 May, 1809.

So when the God of Israel pour'd his wrath,
For Israel's wrongs on harden'd Pharaoh's land;
The baleful east wind blew, and bore along
Myriads of locusts eager to devour;
Like a dark cloud the winged plagues press on,
Veiling the face of earth, destruction marks
Their rapid progress, from the cultur'd banks
Of fertilizing Nile, with hungry speed,
They strip the promis'd harvest, from the trees
Their leafy verdure; barren, brown and bare,
An universal desert, frowns around.
Trembling with horror from the wasted fields,
Affrighted man flies to his dwelling place;
In vain he flies, the active foes pursue,
Mount o'er his bed, and occupy his board./1
Serene amid the storm Britannia rears.
Her awful form above the circling waves,
And safe within her wat'ry panoply,
Defies its howling, while around her throne
Her peaceful sons, in calm security,
Pursue their useful toils. The peasant tills
The fertile glebe, fearless ere autumn's suns
Crown all his labours with a rich reward,
That desolating hordes shall waste his fields
And tread his hopeful crops beneath their feet;
Nor when the labours of the fields are past,
And safe within his ample garners stow'd
The congregated heaps of sheaves repose,

/1 See the description of this severe visitation, in the sublime simplicity

of holy writ. – Exodus, chap. x. v. 12, &c.

15

Dreads lest a band of lawless plunderers,
Burst their wide doors and bear the prize away.
The swart mechanic plies his well known task,
Daily from morn to eve, and sleeps in peace.
Fair science leads her captivated train,
To academic shades, where stillness reigns,
Nor, if perchance the distant cannon's roar,
Proclaims the mimic battle, starts aghast.
No press of hostile feet, presumes to bruise,
Her verdant meads; no din of hostile arms
Awakes her rural echoes; from her hills
No pitying eye looks down the peopled vales,
To count her smoaking hamlets; wide her towns
Extend their ample areas, nor demand
The aid of munimental artifice;
No circling walls, nor wide extended fosse
With lifted bridge, no massy gates secure
With ponderous portcullis, close around
Their trembling inmates.
—— Wearied out with toil,
Hoary with age, and by the weight of years
Born to the earth, the ancient man foregoes
His aiding crutch, and safe beneath the shade,
Of venerable oak or elm reclines
To meditate on heav'n; no rude alarms
Disturb his musings, softly glides away
The ebbing stream of life. The matron views
Well pleased, her blooming progeny surround
The loaded board, and when she bends to hear
With all a mother's ecstacy their notes
Of infant love, no anxious fears alarm,

16

Her wedded bosom, lest the cruel press,
Of undistinguishing and ruthless war,
Should crush their tender forms;
And if the trumpets shrill and angry blast
Comes wafted on the gale, no sudden start,
Like shock electric, thrills through every nerve,
No powerful impulse, hard to be suppress'd
Tempts her to clasp her infant to her breast,
And fly she knows not whither, winged by fear.
Such O my country, thy protected state
Favoured of heaven; and such by contrast seen
Hapless Iberia thine!/1 where horrid war,
Hath fixed his chosen seat, with all his train
Of dire attendants; where the pitying muse
By fancy wafted o'er protecting waves
Sees furious armies, bearing fire and sword,
Wide-wasting, scatter desolation round.
So when the everlasting fires that burn,
Within the secret caverns of the globe,
Heaving with horrid fury, force a vent,
And through the funnel of Vesuvius pour
A glowing torrent of combustibles,
Once solid and compact, now fused with heat;
Down the steep mountain's side the liquid mass
Impetuous bursts, o'erwhelming in its course
Vineyards and cultured fields, and haunts of man.
Alas for Saragossa! beauteous once,

The fairest city of fair Arragon;
Now smoaking in the dust its glories lie;

/1 May, 1809.

17

In fatal hour, the ruthless spoiler came,
Sternly he bade his thundering engines hurl
With force impetuous, irresistible,
Their dire contents; – thick as the driving hail
When the strong north wind blows, they bound along;
Down fall the guardian walls, the stately spire,
The proudly swelling dome, the far stretch'd pile, –
Which fond mistaken piety had rais'd. –
Down fall alas! the tenanted abodes,
Of social happiness, domestic joy,
Of cheerful industry, supported want,
Of helpless infancy, and feeble age, –
One undistinguished ruin buries all. –
Thus in the sultry clime where Gambra/1 rolls
His ample stream, some hungry lion roams
If chance the beauteous Zebra cross his path,
Eager he darts to seize his tremb'ling prey;
With savage joy he tears the quiv'ring limbs,
And strews the mangled relicks o'er the plain.
Here pause my muse, nor borne on feeble wing
Untried, with daring flight presume to soar
To heights sublime, but mindful of his fate,
The hapless youth, whom plaintive Ovid sings,/2
Securely tread, and not without delight,
The verdant mead, or mount the rising hill,
When spring in all her loveliness array'd,
Walks through the land, and nature smiles with joy;
Or skim the level surface of the deep,

/1 Commonly but improperly written Gambia, see Gorberry's Travels.
/2 Icarus. – Vide Metamorph. Lib viii.

18

When waves are hush'd and halcyon breezes blow. –
Leave thou to favour'd bards the lofty song,
The acts of heroes, and the woes of war;
Enough for thee to trace the prospect fair,
To print the beauties of the infant year,
Or twine the wreath around the moss grown pile. –
And now ye monuments of elder days,
Ye scenes where musing fancy loves to dwell,
Once more to you I turn, – be your's the lay,
'Tis all the luckless poet can bestow.

RECULVER CHURCH,
(from the North East) with the adjacent Buildings, as standing in March 1796.

<19>

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF RECULVER, AND Description of its Antiquities.

<20>

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<21>

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT, &c.

Reculver is situated on the sea shore, and in the nor= thern part of the county of Kent. It is 9 miles N. N. E. from Canterbury, 65 from London, and 12 west from Mar= gate. It is in the diocese of Canterbury, and the deanery of Westbere.

The name of Reculver, according to Archdeacon Batte= ley, is derived from the British language, and composed of two words, Rhag and Gwylfa, which conjoined signifies, the former or first watch tower; this etymology of the name, according well with its situation and use, may be ad= mitted without controversy./1 – In Saxon times it was called on account of its castrum Raculfcestre, and in consequence of the monastery founded there by that people Raculf= minster.

The earliest, and indeed the only account which history furnishes us with of Reculver by name in Roman times, is the short notice taken of it in the Notitia Imperii, which merely informs us that the tribune of the first cohort of the

/1 Twine, the Kentish antiquary, speaking of Reculver, observes, 'Re= gulbium quasi Reculsum, a recello derivandum.' – Lambard derives the name from the British word racor, which signifies forward, from its po= sition projecting towards the sea. Baxter from Reg ol üion – the point against the waves.

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Vetasii, was stationed there./1 This cohort as well as the station was under the command of an officer called Comes littoris Saxonici, whose employment it seems to have been to protect the coast against the incursions of the Saxons, who had even then commenced their marauding expeditions. This officer had command over several maritime stations in Kent and Sussex. – The soldiers forming the cohort at Re= culver are called Betasii, in an inscription on an altar found in Cumberland. They were a people of Belgic Gaul, in Pliny named Betasi, in Tacitus Betasii or Bethasii./2

Learned men have not assigned to this record an earlier date than the time of Theodosius the younger, or the be= ginning of the fifth century; but a survey of the remains of Roman work at Reculver, a comparison of them with those at Richborough on the opposite shore, and more espe= cially the coins of a much earlier date, which have from time to time been discovered there, incontestibly prove its existence long before that period.

How happens it then, that a station so considerable, and in so public a situation, should not have acquired a name, nor have been noticed in any record previous to that time? This question admits of the following solution: – Both this and the station at Richborough were the works of the same period, were of equal utility and importance, and known

by one general name, – Rutupiæ;/3 The single circum=

/1 ‘Tribunus cohortis prima Vetasiorum Regulbio,’ – Notitia Imperii. Horsley, Brit. Rom. p. 476. 487.

/2 See Horsley, ibid. p. 281.

/3 Rutupiæ or Rutupæ has no singular number; all the coast of this part of Kent was known to the Romans by the general name of the Ru= tupian shore, thus Juvenal ‘Rutupino edita fundo ostrea,’ and Lucan ‘Rutupina littora fervent.’

stance of this name being used in the plural number only, in every ancient writer where it occurs, is of itself sufficient to establish the assertion. – In process of time, when it be= came necessary from a variety of causes, to distinguish one station from the other, this of Reculver acquired the addi= tional name of Regulbium, which in all probability was only provincial, and perhaps unknown to those writers at Rome, who have accidentally mentioned the Rutupian ports in their works.

It is then to the accounts of the Rutupian harbour, city, and stations, that we must look for the earliest notices of Reculver; and this will carry us back to the first coming of the Romans under Julius Cæsar into Britain.

It seems generally allowed by our historians that Cæsar landed his invading army upon the flat beach near Deal; if so he could not fail to notice the ample and extensive bay, which occupying the space where the town of Sand= wich now stands, extended from Deal to the opposite shore of Thanet. – From this bay proceeded an estuary or arm of the sea, navigable for the largest vessels in those days, lead= ing to the mouths of the rivers Thames and Medway. In order to secure and guard this passage, military stations would naturally be selected by an able General, and the gentle eminences upon which the remains of Reculver and Richborough stand presented themselves, being at each ex= tremity of the estuary, and in every other respect exceed= ingly well adapted for such purposes. Here then in all probability entrenched camps were at the first marked out, which from the importance of their situation, were after= wards secured in the best Roman manner, by strong and lofty walls. – Under what Emperor these walls were erected

history is silent, and conjecture would be unavailing, suf= fice it to say, that it is likely they were among the first, if not the very first grand works of the Romans in Britain.

That Reculver contained not only a military station, but also a large and populous town in Roman times, is to be presumed on account of the many cisterns, vaults, and foundations of buildings, which have at various times been exposed to day by the fall of the cliff; which were evidently of Roman construction, and situated without the limits of the castrum; from the great number and variety of coins Roman and British, and the many fragments of urns, pot= tery, and utensils of silver and brass, which have been found in the same situation; but more especially from the circumstance of its being selected by Ethelbert King of Kent, for his royal residence after the Romans had de= serted it.

It is a well known fact that many of our ancient provin= cial towns derive their origin from military stations in their vicinity; during the latter part of the time in which Britain

was subject to the Romans, the country was continually alarmed by invasions and incursions from the Saxons and the Scots and Picts, in which case it was natural for the in= habitants to resort for safety to the neighbourhood of their martial protectors. When the Roman power was withdrawn, during the times of anarchy and confusion which followed, the residences of the great men and the castles of the Thanes, were surrounded by the habitations of their vassals and de= pendants; who thus crowded together for the purpose of mutual defence, gave rise to many of our provincial towns which have existed to this day; – we may also with certainty date the commencement of several others from the founda=

tion of religious houses, which immediately after the con= version of the pagan Saxons to Christianity began to be erected in every part of the kingdom.

In the latter part of the sixth century, Augustin the monk landed in Kent, and by his preaching and example, quickly converted its King to the christian faith, as pro= fessed and practised at Rome. Ethelbert to accommodate the Apostle and his followers, resigned to them his residence at Canterbury, and retired himself to Reculver, where hav= ing built a palace within the area of the Roman walls, he resided until his death, and was buried there about the year 6l6.

Our Saxon ancestors seem to have adopted Romish chris= tianity, with the most ardent and intemperate zeal; rush= ing from one extreme to the other, they employed them= selves in erecting religious foundations, and their princes and nobles vied with each other in assuming monastic ha= bits, and conforming to all the absurdities of monkish su= perstition; a species of mania, which in the end proved fatal to their power, by depressing their martial energy, and diminishing their numbers from habits of celibacy. – Very soon after the arrival of Augustin, a monastic foun= dation was established at Reculver: by whom or when it was actually instituted is unknown, but most probably under the immediate direction and superintendance of Au= gustin. We find mention of it in the first place in the year 679, when, as appears from a manuscript cartulary of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Bodleian library, Lothair King of Kent made a grant to it of lands at Westanea and Sturidge in the vicinity. It also experienced the benefaction of Egbert the 2d, who, in the year 747, gave to it the tolls

arising from one ship in the town of Fordwich. Also of Eadmund King of Kent in the year 784, and of Eardulf, in 943, who severally enriched it with benefactions of land./1

This institution, together with its possessions, were an= nexed to the monastery of Christ church in Canterbury in the year 949, by the grant of King Edred, in presence of Archbishop Odo, and a long train of nobility. At this time Bishop Tanner supposes the abbot and monks were re= moved; but it seems to have continued a church of more than ordinary note, and under the government of a dean, until about the middle of the 14th century.

From the circumstance of the removal of the religious, together with the termination of the regal dignity in Kent,/2 Reculver seems gradually to have lost its consequence. In the survey of William the Conqueror, called Doomsday-

book, the manor is mentioned as appertaining to the Arch=
bishopric of Canterbury, but nothing further is recorded
concerning it, with the exception of some parochial dis=
putes of little consequence until the time of King Henry
the 8th, when it was shortly described by Leland the anti=
quary. The decline of the water constituting the estuary,
which began to take place in the 11th century, and conse=

/1 The Saxon chronicle ascribes the foundation of the monastery at Re=
culver to Bassa, one of the nobles of Egbert the first, King of Kent, in
the year 669. The latin charters of benefactions above related, may be
found in the Bibleotheca Topographica; the well know fact that such evi=
dences were frequently forged by the monks to retain their possessions,
renders their authenticity doubtful.

/2 The kingdom of Kent was conquered by Egbert King of the West
Saxons, who uniting the several portions of the Saxon heptarchy, became
King of England in the year 827, the monks were removed as above
in 949.

quently of the thoroughfare to the Thames might be a prin=
cipal cause of its desertion; and it is probable that the in=
croachment of the sea also commenced about the same period.

All that requires notice in a historical point of view in
the account of Reculver given by Leland is, that in his
time it was ‘sore decayed,’ – and distant about half a mile
from the sea; which last remark, serves to prove how much
has been washed away in the space of near 300 years.

Of late years this ancient fortress and metropolis, can be
considered only in the light of a small and very obscure
village, inhabited by farmers and their dependants, and a
few individuals of the hardy race of smugglers, and fisher=
men, who are to be found more or less in every maritime
situation.

The sea which has for ages been making slow and gra=
dual advances, and long since entirely overwhelmed the
spot, on which it is supposed the ancient town of Reculver
stood; hath now approached within a few yards of the
church; which fabrick, unless it be removed, cannot in all
probability withstand the assaults of another winter. Within
the memory of many persons now living, a farm house with
its appurtenances were situated between the church and the
sea, and also the remains of a chapel, converted into a
dwelling house; from which it appears that the depreda=
tions of the sea have been very considerable of late years,
more so if Leland’s account may be depended upon, than
at any distant period. In the year 1780, when a survey of
Reculver was published in the Bibliotheca Topographica,
by the late Mr. Boys, of Sandwich, the north wall of the
Roman castrum, which was distant about 80 yards from
the church, had lately been overthrown by the fall of the

cliff, and the angle of the tower towards the north, as ap=
pears by the annexed plan was distant about 50 yards from
the border of the precipice. In the year 1805 when the
present writer first examined it, the church yard was entire,
surrounded with its walls; and between the wall and the
cliff was a highway broad enough to admit of carriages.
Since that time some remarkable high tides and violent
gales of wind, have happened, by means of which so much
of the cliff has been overthrown, that at the present mo=
ment (June 1809), the distance from the north angle of the

tower to the edge of the cliff is reduced to five yards only.

Having now noticed every thing historical which relates to Reculver, I will proceed to give some account of its an= tiquities severally.

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THE ROMAN CASTRUM.

The Roman castrum, as it was the earliest erection, de= mands the first notice. It is situated upon a gentle emi= nence or sand hill, elevated 35 feet from the level of the sea. In its original state it occupied a space of ground equal to 8 acres, 1 rood, 1 pole; the area within the wall measured 7 acres, 2 roods, 26 poles. Its form was that of an oblong square, whose greatest length was from north to south; the four sides of this square did not exactly (though nearly) face the cardinal points, and the angles were rounded. Within the area of the castrum which has evi= dently been raised by buildings and other causes, the re= mains of the wall never rise above the level of the surface, having in all probability been removed by the inhabitants at a distant period; on the outside the greatest height of the remains is ten feet. What was the original height of the wall cannot be determined, not even by a comparison with that at Richborough, which is no where perfect, though in some parts it is nearly 30 feet high. On the out= side towards the south the foundation of the wall is exposed by the removal of the earth in several places, where it seems to have been composed of round pebbles, smaller than those used in the superstructure. The materials which compose the remains of the wall are invariably

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round flint pebbles, such as are found upon the beach,/1 cemented firmly with coarse mortar, and no courses, or foundations of brickwork are visible as at Richborough; though from the number of Roman bricks worked into the church, and lying about in all directions, there is no doubt, but that in its original state it was strengthened by these fillets or bands at regular intervals, as may be re= marked in that building;/2 nor are there any portions re=

/1 Called in this part of the country Boulders, and used for paving.

/2 On this peculiarity of Roman masonry, the following remarks are made by Mr. King, in his learned and elaborate work: –

‘The several alternate rows, or courses of stone and brick, as appear in this wall (Richborough) were by the Greeks who lived in Roman times called <themelioi>, or <themelia>, and are the kind of ornaments alluded to by St. John, as being so highly beautiful according to every one’s apprehen= sion in his days; when in his emblematical representation of the walls of the holy city, in the prophesy of the Revelatons, he speaks of such be= ing formed of precious stones. The Greek word is in our translations of the passage very improperly rendered, as far as relates to a consistency with our modern ideas, foundations, instead of courses; and this mis= translation occasions much confusion, in the minds of most persons who attempt to read the prophet’s sublime description.

‘Nevertheless, the reasons why these alternate rows of either bricks or of smooth flat stones, were anciently called foundations (though the word seems now so uncouth and misapplicable in our ears) is yet appa= rent enough. For whoever examines Roman walls attentively, will find, that most usually the broader alternate rows of rude stone, or flints, or rubble and mortar, were evidently constructed, merely by having the whole mass flung carelessly into a great caisson or frame of wood, whose interior breadth was that of the wall; and whose depth was that of the

space between the alternate rows of bricks; and whose length was more or less as suited convenience; and that the parts thus reared, one at the end of the other, on, and over each row of bricks, were united together af= terwards, merely by means of very small loose stones and mortar thrown into the narrow space left at each end between them. As therefore these caissons were removed up from one row of bricks, or smooth stones, to another superior row, in constant repetition, according as the wall ad= vanced in height, and were placed successively upon every row; those substantial rows of bricks regularly placed, might very well be called <themelioi> or foundations; because indeed, such they really were, the whole way up, to those identical buildings. – Muniments Antiqua, vol. 2. p. 9.

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maining of the stone work with which it was faced. The thickness of the fragments which lie upon the beach is about 9 feet, from these an opinion may be drawn of the original thickness of the wall when complete with both its facings; which could not have been less than from 11 to 12 feet, similar to Richborough.

From the present state of the wall, none of the original gates or entrances are distinguishable. – Nothing remains at Reculver of the foundations of the prætorium nor sa= cellum within the camp, though they are so perfect at Richborough; this may be accounted for by supposing, ac= cording to the opinion of Mr. King, in his Munimenta An= tiqua, that the church occupies their situation; which opinion its position serves in great measure to confirm, be= ing that usually assigned to those edifices./1

The most inattentive observer cannot fail to notice the astonishing firmness of this rough masonry; immense portions weighing individually some tuns lie upon the beach, and defy the utmost power of waves and weather to detach the rude materials of which they are formed from their connec= tion with each other. A very remarkable instance of this firmness of cohesion, presents itself at this moment, and is shewn in the view of the church taken from the beach. A portion of the east wall next the sea, being deprived of its foundation to the extent of several feet, hangs in that state over the head of the astonished spectator; the mass of ma= sonry thus suspended, is at least 9 feet thick and 4 feet in

/1 For an account of the situation of the Decuman and Prætorian gates of a Roman castrum, see Munim. Ant. vol. 2 p. 13. For that of the Prætorium and Sacellum, see the same vol. p. 19, where the inquisitive reader may find every circumstance connected with a great Roman station circumstantially related.

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height, and cannot weigh less than 8 tuns. I am not aware that modern chemistry so happily applied to explain various phenomena of natural philosophy, has thrown any light upon this property of Roman masonry observed in Britain. Was there any thing peculiar in the mode of preparing their ce= ment, or of proportioning its ingredients which could give it this firmness of cohesion; or is it merely an effect of some gradual process going on imperceptibly during the lapse of ages? It is a curious question, and deserving the attention of our chemical philosophers.

I have repeatedly examined the mortar or cement from these walls, and from those of Richborough with some at= tention, and have found it to consist of lime, not mixed in the modern way with pit sand, but with fragments of flint,

small pebbles, portions of brick and occasionally pieces of charcoal, which might remain after the burning of the lime. That these several ingredients were not united previously to their being used, I am led to suspect from the appearance of the cement in various parts of Richborough wall; the union I think was effected as follows: – The boulders, or large flint pebbles, being laid in order, small pebbles, frag= ments of flint and bricks, were shaken over them in such a manner, as to insinuate them between the intervals of the boulders; a thin mixture of pure lime and water being pre= pared, was then poured over the whole, which mixture was sufficiently dilute to fill up completely the remaining inter= stices, and produce when dry one solid mass. This will ap= pear more probable if we admit the opinion of Mr. King, expressed in the note to page 30, that these walls were formed in frames or caissons of wood; this opinion, however, with deference to the learned and excellent author I cannot

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subscribe to. I have repeatedly and carefully examined Richborough wall, and am confident no such caissons were used in its formation; and for the following reasons: – No appearances exist of their separate endings, which Mr. King says were filled up after their removal with small loose stones and mortar: – Each front of the wall having a faceing of hewn stone well squared, as may be seen in the north front, which is very well preserved, these faceings when laid would of themselves constitute a frame or case, and supersede the necessity of using caissons of wood: – The distances between the several fillets or bands of brickwork are not the same all the way up the wall, but differ in the proportion of from 3 to 4 feet, which would not have been the case had one and the same caisson been used; in fact the distances were de= termined not by any given height, but by a certain num= ber of layers of hewn stone: A better reason may be given for the use of these bands of brick work, than merely that they were foundations for wooden frames; they were doubtless used for the purpose to which bond timber is applied in mo= dern buildings, to give firmness and strength to the masonry until it had acquired those properties from time, and the necessity for their use in this respect will easily be admitted, when it is considered that the materials in other parts are smooth and round flint pebbles. This mode of examination, though it may perhaps render the opinion that Roman walls were built in frames of wood doubtful, does not in the smallest degree affect the happy illustration of the sacred text which Mr. King has drawn from thence. These bands of brickwork may still with propriety be termed <themelioi> or foundations; for such they were if not to wooden frames, yet certainly to the rude masonry of their superstructures.

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There can, I presume, be no doubt but that whole legions or armies were employed in the building of these magnificent walls, as they were in the formation of the military roads. In this case it is easy to imagine a regular division and ap= propriation of labour. The masons by trade were employed in laying the courses or foundations of brick work, and rais= ing upon them the two faces of hewn stone; others were ap= pointed to dispose in some order the large flint pebbles or boulders; the more inexperienced were set to complete the work, by spreading the rubbish, and pouring in the liquid mortar to connect the whole. By this regular mode of pro=

ceeding a whole legion being employed, the walls of Rich=
borough immense as they are, might have been raised in no
very considerable length of time.

Mr. Boys in his description of Reculver in the Bibliotheca
Topographica is at a loss to account for the destruction of
the materials which formed the wall; which at Richborough
though thrown down remain in huge masses upon the spot
where they have fallen; and is obliged to have recourse to
an explanation which does not, I imagine, account for the
circumstance, namely – that they have been dissolved from
their connection with each other by their exposure to air
and moisture, and afterwards swept away by the action of
the waves. A more likely conjecture is, that Reculver be=
ing a large and populous town soon after the desertion of
it by the Romans, the inhabitants at different times took
down and removed portions of the wall, and applied the ma=
terials to buildings of more use and convenience to them=
selves. This they might have been enabled to do at that
time, though impossible at present, the cement not having
attained that hardness which it seems to acquire from time

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only. It must be recollected that a royal palace, a monastery
and a parish church have severally been built within the area
of the wall. Whereas there remains no proof that there ever
existed a town or buildings of any kind in the near neigh=
bourhood of Richborough.

The south wall is overgrown with ivy, and serves as shelter
to a small thicket of bushes and shrubby trees, among which
thriving luxuriantly appears the fig tree, or ficus carica;
the sambucus ebulus, or dwarf elder also abounds there.
These add very greatly to the picturesque effect of Reculver
church when seen at a distance.

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THE CHURCH.

The church which is the next object of attention, is an
irregular structure, and appears by a cursory view to have
been built at different periods; – but an attentive compa=
rison of its architecture with other buildings whose ages
are known, will lead to a different opinion. We shall per=
ceive in every part of this structure, a mixture of the style
usually called Saxon, known by its round arches, square
or round pillars, zigzag mouldings, and plain walls with=
out buttresses; with that introduced by the Normans and
called by their name, whose characteristics are, pointed
arches, slender and clustered pillars, windows highly or=
namented with mullions or tracery work, and a profusion
of strong buttresses. Thus we remark that the towers of
Reculver church are plain without angular buttresses; the
western doorway has a pointed or Norman arch, with Saxon
mouldings; the north doorway has a pure Saxon circular
arch, with appropriate ornaments; the arches in the nave
or body of the church are pointed, with square pillars; the
passage from the nave into the chancel is beneath three
circular arches, supported by round pillars; and some of
the windows arc ornamented in the Norman manner, while
others are pure Saxon. – This mixture of the two several

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styles of building took place at the period of the Norman
conquest, and continued to prevail about a century after=

wards. From this mode of examination I derive my opi=
nion, that no part of the church at Reculver can claim an
higher antiquity than the time of the conquest, that it was
the work of one period, and erected within a century of
that event which happened in the year 1066. If this con=
jecture be right, every writer who has spoken of it, from
Leland to the present time, has been guilty of an error,
perhaps derived from him, in asserting that it belonged to
the monastery, which as I have stated was dissolved in or
about the year 949.

It may not be improper to notice here two several tradi=
tionary accounts of this church, both of which are re=
corded in a short account of Reculver, written by the Rev.
F. Green, one of the vicars, some time between the years
1695 and 1716. 'Whether the church now standing was
the ancient parish church, seems to me doubtful; Reculver
being once the seat of a King, was so populous that it
seems to me improbable that the present church could
contain the people, and the ancient tradition of the place
is, that the parish church stood about a mile into the sea,
upon a place called by the inhabitants 'The Black Rock,'
which shews itself at low water. The present church
seems to me to have been built for the use of the religious
within the walls.' Unfortunately for this tradition, in an
ordination between the vicar and parishioners so long back
as the year 1296, mention is made of an oblation trunk,
which stood near the large stone cross between the nave

and chancel,/1 which cross remained there in the 16th cen=
tury, and is noticed at large by Leland. In the ordina=
tion of the vicarage also in the year 1310, the rectory
house is said to stand where it now does, in quadam area
in a certain area, which area was then charged with prin=
cipal tythes, as at present. The other tradition is noticed
by Mr. Green as follows: – 'The church of Reculver is
lofty and well-built, it has two steeples in front, in one of
which hang four bells; these steeples were built, if we be=
lieve the tradition of the place, by two sisters.' There is
nothing to support this tradition; whoever built the steeples
built also the towers, which were evidently formed to re=
ceive them. In fact, this story seems to have originated
from the name given to the spires by the seamen, who per=
haps from time immemorial have called them the 'Two
Sisters,' from their similitude and peculiarity of form.

The appearance of Reculver church at a distance, is in
the highest degree imposing and picturesque; from what=
ever point of view it is seen, whether from land or sea, in a
near or distant view it is a most beautiful object of vision,
and has been long and deservedly admired. This is owing
in great measure to the peculiarity of its structure, its
elegant twin spires, and its elevated situation upon the verge
of the sea. A close approach and examination produces
some disappointment, from its want of regularity and its
state of dilapidation; in fact it must be confessed that no
part of it, with the exception of the west front, could ever,
even in its most perfect state, have been produced as a good
specimen of ancient architecture.

/1 'In quodam trunco juxta magnam crucem lapideam inter ecclesiam
et cancellum.'

The dimensions of its several parts, as measured by the present writer, are as follows: –

FEET.

Length of the Nave — 67
Breadth of ditto — 24
Height of ditto — 31
Length of the Chancel — 46
Breadth of ditto — 23
Length of the Side Aisles — 67
Breadth of ditto — 11
Height of ditto — 21
Height of the Arches which support the Nave — 20
Girth of the square Pillars — 12
Breadth of the same in front — 4
Girth of the round Pillars — 7
Square of the Towers within — 12
Height of the Towers — 63
Total height of the Spires — 106
Breadth of the West front — 64
Total length from East to West — 120
Ancient Porch — 15 by 11

The west front contained the principal entrance, which was highly ornamented with Saxon mouldings, executed as far as can be perceived in a good style of workmanship; but the materials, Caen stone, have suffered so much from ex= posure to the weather that but a slight opinion can be formed of its original effect. This doorway is flanked on each side by a square tower, surmounted with a spire of timber covered with lead; the angles of the towers are formed of hewn stone, but the remaining parts are filled up with rugged stones, flints, aud portions of Roman bricks,

layed without any attempt at regularity, – which was of little consequence originally, the whole being covered, as most of our ancient churches were, with a coat of plaister. The roofs both of the nave and side aisles are flat and co= vered with lead; over the west doorway between the towers, the wall is finished with a cone, like the gable end of a building, which gives something the appearance of a pedi= ment; this rises above the flat roof, and is pierced by a circular window or opening; probably in its original state the roof was pointed to correspond with the cone. This peculiarity of structure in the west front, unlike any church I have ever seen, gives the whole an air of simple grandeur, and in its perfect state must have produced a good effect. No other part of the exterior of the church demands par= ticular attention.

The interior of the church consists of a nave, two side aisles and a chancel, but no transcept or cross aisle; viewed from the western entrance, or from the stone gallery which connects the two towers, and is elevated about 25 feet from the floor, its appearance is not void of interest, though it cannot boast much architectural embellishments; the square pillars four on each side, have a massy effect, which is re= lieved by the arches which are light and pointed. The entrance to the chancel is beneath three arches supported by pillars of pure Saxon workmanship, the pillars are, however, more slender for their height than is common, and their capitals are of a singular construction. At each extremity of the side aisles was originally a chapel or chauntry, in which for many years previous to the Refor=

mation a priest was employed at a regular salary. These chapels, for what cause does not appear, have been closed

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up, that on the south side it is probable contains the se= pulchre of King Ethelbert, for here Weever informs us he saw a monument of antique form, mounted with two spires, in which as tradition says the royal corpse was deposited./1 This monument, if it exists at all, will be found in the chapel now closed in on every side. Some years past the following old inscription is said to have been written on the outside wall of this chapel, now inaccurately copied on a wooden tablet, in the same situation: –

'Here as historiographers have said,
St. Ethelbert, Kents whilome King was laid;
Whom St. Augustin with the gospel entertained
And in this land hath ever since remained;
Who though by cruel pagans he was slain
The crown of martyrdom he did obtain
Who died on the 24th of February, in the year 6l6.'

The floor of the church was formerly in part at least laid with a kind of terras, formed of coarse stone and mortar, the surface smooth and polished, was also covered with a composition of a red colour; from age this flooring has ac= quired a very considerable hardness. In other parts it is laid with glazed bricks, so common in old churches.

In Leland's time the church retained some portion of its original magnificence. Speaking of the chancel, which he calls the choir, he says, that at the entrance of it was one of the fairest and most stately crosses he had ever seen. It was nine feet in height, and stood like a fair column; the basis was a large unwrought stone; the second stone was round, and had the images of Christ and some of his

/1 Funeral Monuments, p. 260.

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apostles, curiously wrought with labels proceeding from their mouths, painted in large Roman letters; the next stone contained the passion of our Saviour; the next above that the twelve apostles; the fifth had our Saviour fixed to the cross, with a sustentaculum under his feet; and the uppermost stone was in form of a cross. He describes also, as being in the church, a very ancient book of the gospels in large roman letters, and in the boards thereof a chrystal stone inscribed CLAUDIA ATEPICCUS, (probably a Roman seal found here). On the north side of the church was the figure of a Bishop painted under an arch. Leland adds, that in digging about the church yard, were found old buckles of girdles and rings./1

When Philipot made his survey, he describes the church as, 'full of solitude, and languishing into decay.'

The following are the principal monuments and inscrip= tions. On a flat stone, near the alter rails in the chancel, are brasses representing on one side the figure of a man in ar= mour with his feet resting upon a greyhound; on the other a lady in a loose habit, with a head dress of enormous size and peculiar fashion. Beneath them are effigies of their nu= merous family, viz. 8 sons, and 7 daughters; – from the figure of the lady proceeds a label with the following in= scription: – fiat misericordia tua d'ne super nos; a similar label proceeding from the male figure has been destroyed; over the latter are three boars heads couped at the neck;

over the former three rams heads couped in like manner; with this inscription –

'Hic jacet Johannes Sandeway armiger; et Johanna uxor ejus; quorum animabus propitietur deus; Amen.'

/1 Itinerary, vol. 7 p. 137.

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Two escutcheons near the foot of the stone are lost.

Against the south wall of the chancel, within the railing which incloses the communion table, is the handsome mo= nument of Sir Cavalliero Maycote and his family; the plaster figures of himself, his lady, and nine children, in a kneeling attitude, are well executed. Arms over the monu= ment Quarterly – 1st and 4th, ermine, in a canton ar= gent, a stag seiant gules; – 2d and 3d, parted per pale, sable and ermine a chevron engrailed gules. Beneath on the pedestal of the reading table are the same arms impal= ing, gules, three crescents argent, for Maycote.

The inscription as follows:

'Here under waite for a joyful resurrection, the bodyes of dame Marie, and her husband Sir Cavalliero Maycote, knight, who lived together in great contentment from St. Andrew's day, anno 1586 full 20 years; in which time they had 8 sonnes and one daughter, namelye, John, Thomas, George, Richarde, Thomas, William, Harbert, George, and Elizabeth; wharof 5 sonnes dyed before them. She was the daughter of Thomas Monynges, gent. and Ales Crispe, sumtimes dwellers at Swanton in Lidden, and died on Christmas day anno 1606. He was the sonne of George Maycote, gent. and of Margaret Brooker, long dwellers in this parish, and died . . . . . To all whom the Lord be merciful at the latter day.'

Sir Cavalliero Maycote is said to have been an accom= plished gentleman, and a celebrated courtier in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He lived at Brook an ancient mansion in the parish of Reculver, at this time remarkable for a cu= rious gateway or portal of brickwork.

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This house of Brook has been at different times the resi= dence of several distinguished families. The earliest pos= sessor of whom we have any account is Alice de Brooke,/1 who in the 14th century founded and endowed a chantry in Reculver church, for the repose of her soul and those of the faithful deceased./2 Soon after this time it was in possession of the family of Tingewicke, originally from Buckinghamshire, but possessed of other lands in Kent./3 From this name it descended to that of Pine or de la Pine, a family of considerable consequence in their day. James Pine passed it away about the beginning of the reign of Henry the 4th, to Sir William Cheney, of a knightly house, one of whose ancestors was made a Banneret by King Ed= ward the 1st, at the seige of Carlaverock. Henry, created Lord Cheney in the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign, sold it to George Maycote, esq. who resided here, as did his son Sir Cavalliero Maycote. From him it passed to Christopher Clive, who immediately afterwards sold it to Thomas Contrey. gent, of Beaksborne, whose son of the same name resided here, and bore for his arms: – Azure, a pile surmounted by a fesse, four fleurs-de-lis, or. It after= wards became the property of Sir Edward Master, whose descendant Steynsham Master, of Brooke near Wingham,

dying without issue in 1727, his widow became possessed

/1 In the same century mention is made of Richard atte Broke, and of Walter atte Broke his son, who were probably of the same family.

/2 'Pro anima dictæ Aliciæ et animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum.

/3 One of this name Nicholas de Tyngwicke obtained a dispensation from Archbishop Reynolds, for holding the Rectory of Reculver, together with that of Caleshall in the diocese of Sarum, in the year 1314. He was the first vicar of Reculver.

of it, and devised it by will to her kinsman Sir George Oxenden, bart. who was before possessed of estates in the vicinity, and some of whose ancestors in times long past re= sided here, one of whom, Thomas Oxenden, was buried in the church in the year 1450. In the descendants of this family it still remains, Sir H. Oxenden, bart. being the pre= sent proprietor of it.

On the south side of the channel is fixed a tablet of black marble, on which is engraved the figure of a herald about a foot in height; he is represented in full dress, with his tabard of arms gilt and very neatly executed; he appears to have been a corpulent man, with short hair and beard, dressed in trunk breeches, boots with tops turned down and spurs. The pediment of this curious monument, together with the shield of arms, have fallen down, and are lost; the arms were, or, a cross engrailed parted per pale, gules and sable, a chief gules, thereon a lion passant guardant or, Crest; – An arm holding a sword entwined with a wreath: Inscription beneath the figure: –

'Here under quiet from worldlie miseries
Ralph Brooke, esquire, late York Herald lies;
Fifteenth of October, he was last alive,
One thousand, six hundred, twenty and five.
Seaventy three years, bore he fortunes harmes,
And forty five an officer of armes;
He married Thomsin, daughter of Michael Cobb of Kent,
Serjeant at armes, by whome two daughters God him lent
Survyving, Mary, William Dickins' wife,
Thomasin, John Exton's. Happy be their life.'

This Ralph Brook was the same who upon the publication of the celebrated Britannia of Camden wrote an attack upon

it, under the title of 'Detection of errors in Camden's Bri= tannia. To this it is supposed he was instigated by jealous envy, at the advancement of the father of our antiquities who was a brother herald, to a degree in the college of arms, which he thought from his age and standing more properly due to himself; and in truth there seems to have been some reason on his side; Camden appears to have had greater in= terest and more powerful friends; however that may be, his book displays at considerable portion of acrimony, and also a respectable degree of knowledge in the science appertain= ing to his function.

In the floor of the channel is a slab of grey marble, upon which occupying the whole length of the stone, is cut the figure of a cross, the capital of which is circular with the edges indented; from the projecting angles of these indenta= tions, and also from the shaft, proceed ramifications of an irregular figure, somewhat resembling leaves; the cross is fixed in a base with a rugged outline, like a mound of earth. There is a similar cross to this in the church at Margate,

and they occasionally occur in other situations; where the persons commemorated are known, they have been found to belong to ecclesiasticks, and to have been in use in the 11th, and 12th centuries, probably they were used to denote some particular order, or degree in the priesthood. The cross flory of heraldry seems to have originated from the same source; and it may be presumed that both one and the other are derived from the miraculous vegetation of Aaron's rod. Round the verge of the stone is cut an inscription in capital letters, some of them Saxon and others Roman, like many other inscriptions of the 12th and 13th centuries, as follows: –

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VOS: QUI: TRANSITIS: THOMAM: DEFLERE:
VELETIS:
PER: ME: NUNC: SCITIS: QUID: PRODEST:
GLORIA: DITIS:

Thus translated by Mr. Boys, as he remarks, without much disgrace to the elegance of the original:

'All you that draw near, upon Tom drop a tear,
From whom 'twill appear, that the rich are poor here.'

In the north wall of the chancel is a stone, with the following arms carved upon it and painted in colours, gules, semee of cross-crosslets and a lion rampant or. – In the windows were a few years past several armonial bearings, among others those of England, gules, three lions passant guardant or, and azure a cross patee or, between four martlets proper.

In the middle aisle are the following inscriptions: –

Arms. – A Chevron between 3 cocks, impaling on a bend cotized, a lion passant.

'Here lyeth buried the bodyes of Benjamin Cobb, of Reculver, in the county of Kent, gent. and of Alice his wife, the daughter of Robert Knowle, esq. of Hearne, in the said county, gent. He had issue by her, two sonnes Robert and Francis, and foure daughters, Susannah, Marye, Anne, and Margaret. He departed this life on the 10th day of June 1642, in the 38th year of his age. She dyed before, upon the 7th day of July 1641, in the 33d year of her age.'

'Here also lyeth buried the body of Robert Cobb, of Reculver, in the county of Kent, gent. sonne of Benjamin Cobb; he married Mary the daughter of Jonas Hunt, gent. sometimes of Chislet, by whom he had issue 3 sonnes, viz. Benjamin, Robert, and John, and 2 daughters, Anne and Mary. He died June the 17th, 1676, aged 42 years.'

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'Here also lyeth buried the body of Mary Cobb, daughter of Robert and Mary Cobb. She departed this life the 23d day of April, in the year of our lord 1681, aged 10 yeares.'

'Here lyeth the body of Benjamin Cobb of Chislet, gent. son of Robert and Mary Cobb, of Reculver, who married Frances, late wife of William Whiteing, of Chislet, by whom he left one daughter Mary Cobb. He was buried the 10th of July 1683, aged 21 years.'

Arms. – On a fesse between 3 cinquefoils pierced, a lion passant. –

'Here lyeth the body of Mary, late wife of Robert Cobb, of Reculver, gent. She was daughter of Jonas Hunt, gent. sometime of Chislet. She was buried May the 29th, 1684, aged 45 years.'

'Here lyeth the body of Henry Hills, who died February

l6, 1664.'

'Here lyeth the body of Mary Hills, who died March 25, 1665.'

'Here lyeth the body of Henry Hills; he had issue by his wife Catharine, two sons and two daughters, Henry, John, Mary and Catharine. He died in December, 1684, aged 62 years.'

'Here lyeth the body of John Hills, son of Henry Hills, he had to wife Elizabeth. He departed this life the 20th of June, 1685, aged 30 years.'

On a stone next the west door much broken –

'Here lyeth interred the body of Catherine Hills, who departed this life the 25th day of January 1696-7, aged 72 years and odd months. She was daughter to Vincent Wal= derdown, of Birchington in the Isle of Thanet, yeoman, and her husband Henry Hills, gave the poor men of Re=

culver the rent of £3. 10s. a year, payable the 24th day of June for ever.'

Respecting these families of Cobb and Hills, the follow= ing honourable mention is made in the letter of the Rev. Mr. Green before referred to: Speaking of a cause between the parishioners of Reculver and those of St. Nicholas and Herne, he observes: – 'The suit was managed on the part of Reculver by one Mr. Cobb, of Bishopston in Reculver, one of whose ancestors was York herald at arms, and lies buried in the chancel at Reculver. I think myself in gra= titude obliged to mention this gentleman's name; because it is in a great measure owing to his indefatigable care and diligence in searching records and managing the suit, that these pensions were not then lost. – And here I cannot well forget the piety of John (Henry) Hills, a farmer, living at Brook in the parish of Reculver, partly to preserve his me= mory and partly to induce others to follow his example. This good man, besides three pounds a year and upwards, which he gave to the labourers of Reculver for ever; gave to the church a large bible and pulpit cloth, a large silver flaggon, chalice, and salver for the communion service, and a very fine damask table cloth to spread upon the altar.'

The bequest of this worthy farmer to the poor men of Reculver, consisted of a house and about three acres of land in Chislet and Herne; the rents of which he left in trust to the churchwardens of Reculver, to be by them distributed annually to the oldest and poorest labouring men, who had never received alms from the parish. A species of benefaction of all others the most useful and de= serving of imitation, as it tends in no small degree to en= courage and reward among the lower order cf the commu=

nity habits of industry and sobriety. Much has lately been said and written upon the subject of improving and better= ing the condition of that order, and many plans have been devised for the purpose, but few of which I suspect would be attended with the desired effect. – I have, during the whole of my life, had constant opportunities of being in= timately acquainted with the circumstances of the lower order of people, among whom I have lived. These have been almost entirely of the class which is employed in field labour and the occupations of farming; a class of all others most capable of improvement and deserving of it; and the result of my observations is this: – These people while their

health and strength remains are fully competent to provide for themselves and families by their labour alone, but they suffer much when these fail them and debility or old age overtakes them, when as they emphatically observe their work is done. – No sight can be more distressing than what I have often witnessed, that of the hoary peasant under these circumstances, anticipating with horror for many years the concluding scenes of his useful life. Feeling most acutely every symptom of decreasing strength, and the gra= dual approach of the period when his worn out frame will be consigned to that miserable receptable a parish work= house, or become dependant for its support upon the forced allowance of a parish officer. It is equally distressing to see him exerting the remains of his almost wasted strength, to support himself independent of either, though unable to obtain the comforts requisite for his age, and in some cases even the full allowance of what is necessary for his existence. This is an interesting subject, and I trust I may be excused if I extend my remarks a little further, though certainly much out of place.

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In the neighbouring parish to that from which I write, there exists a charity similar to the one above noticed, but upon a more extensive plan. A landed estate was be= queathed in the last century, a moiety of the produce of which was ordered to be equally divided between eight poor parishioners, being those of the most advanced age, and who had at no time in their lives been burthensome to the parish by requiring aid from the poor's rate. This cha= rity has of late years produced to each of its proprietors about £4 per annum, upon an average.

The beneficial effects of this most judicious charity com= mence from the moment a man becomes a fixed parishioner; from that time he is looking forward to the period when it will fall to his lot to share in its produce, and it not only serves to cheer his progress in life, but it also acts as a constant stimulus to his exertions. Knowing that if he draws money from the parish rate, he will be deprived of its benefits, he is anxious to provide by his frugality and industry for any casualties which may happen to himself or his family; he will not idle away his time, nor spend his money in an alehouse; and it is a fact that the parish in question only supports one house of that description, while others of no greater size have three and even four. I can assert that the labouring class in this parish are more industrious, more cleanly in their houses and persons, and better moral characters, than I have ever met with else= where: they are more punctual in discharging their debts, and I have known several instances, which I never remarked elsewhere, of labouring men who have saved money from their earnings. It is also a fact well known in the neigh= bourhood, that the poor's rate is lower in this parish by a

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considerable amount than in any of the others with which it is surrounded, though the circumstances of all in other particulars are perfectly similar.

Such being the evident good effects in this instance, why should not a plan something similar take place in every parish – for instance – suppose for every hundred inhabi= tants the sum of £10 was set apart from the poor rate, and one parishioner of the above description was entitled to re=

ceive it annually. – In a village then containing 700 inha=
bitants, £70 per annum would be appropriated, and seven
poor men of the labouring class who were of the greatest
age, and had never received aid from the rate, would receive
it. They might have a clear claim to the pension without
favour or distinction, and a Magistrate might decide in
any disputed case. I am perfectly well convinced of the
beneficial effects of such a regulation in villages; whether
it might be equally well adapted to large towns I cannot
say, but I am not able to call to mind any objection that
can be fairly made to it. That it would tend to smooth
the most rugged path of life, and enliven its most dreary
season cannot be denied: – That it would promote habits of
regularity, temperance and frugality, and call forth the
utmost exertions of the labourer, I think is equally apparent.
Nor do I expect contradiction when from the instance be=
fore me I confidently assert that it would lessen the burthen,
which in the present state of things the lower order is sup=
posed to place upon their more favoured brethren. The
good effect of instruction by educating the lower order is at
least but problematical, and has with some shew of reason
been denied. The good effect of a regulation similar to the
one I have pointed out is evident, and can be proved by
demonstration of facts.

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The church at Reculver is dedicated to St. Mary, and
is a vicarage of no very considerable value, in consequence
of the diminished size of the parish, and the greater part of
it being ploughed land. The great tythes have in all pro=
bability from their commencement, been appropriated to
the see of Canterbury, and are let out in the customary way
upon a beneficial lease. These tythes were given by Arch=
bishop Kilwarby about the year 1270 to the hospitals of
Harbledown and Northgate near Canterbury, but were re=
sumed by his successor in the see, and a fixed sum paid in
their stead. A formal ordination of this vicarage occurs in
the year 1310 by Archbishop Winchelsea, by which the
adjacent chapel of Hoath was annexed to Reculver, and
the several chapels of St. Nicholas and Allsaints, in Thanet,
and of Herne, which were by this instrument ordained vi=
carages, were made dependant upon it:/1 the vicars of these
chapels paying a yearly pension to the vicar of Reculver,
and the parishioners contributing to the repairs of the mo=
ther church there. This state of dependance seems to have
been the source of much contention between the inhabitants
of the several parishes, but more particularly the circum=
stance of the repairs. The people of Herne first disputed
this right, which was established by a decree of Archbishop
Stratford, in 1335; notwithstanding this decree repeated
disputes and contests continued between the parishes, until
at length, in the reign of Henry the 8th, the inhabitants of
Reculver were completely outwitted, when by a voluntary
act they consented to receive from the inhabitants of St. Ni=
cholas and Herne, a stated sum annually, in lieu of an

/1 In this ordination, the several parishes are said to contain upwards
of three thousand souls, ‘trium millium vel amplius animarum.’

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equal share of the expenses of repairing the mother church;
which stipend from the diminished value of money is now of
little or no value.

To this vicarage appertain about three acres of glebe land, one acre of which is marsh, and the great tithes of the land inclosed within the area of the Roman walls, which has been a ploughed field, from time immemorial; there is also a vi= carage house. This sacerdotal mansion, which by some per= sons is deemed not the least of the curiosities of Reculver, has the appearance of some antiquity; it consists of two miserable rooms on the ground floor and a like number above, with no other conveniences, nor appurtenances of any kind. In fact was it not for the stone porch with which the entrance is decorated, it would pass only for the cottage of a la= bourer; it has, however, within these few years been the re= sidence of the vicar, when it was inhabited by the Rev. Ri= chard Morgan, a man, by the report of the inhabitants, of a singular and eccentric character./1

Of the several vicars of this church, but few have been distinguished for their learning their literary productions, or remarkable circumstances in their lives.

Thomas Newe, vicar about the year 1351, seems to have been a man of some consequence in his time; be resigned this vicarage for the rectory of Aldington, and was also rector of Godmersham. He founded two chantries at Re= culver, and another at Hoath, in 1354, and a fourth at Harbledown in 1371. These chantries, more particularly that at Hoath, were well endowed with pensions and grants of land. The officiating priest at Hoath performed all the

/1 He died here after continuing vicar 22 years, in 1804, and was buried in the church yard.

offices of a parochial curate, and at the suppression it be= came matter of dispute, whether the statute would warrant the seizure of the revenues belonging to this chantry, for the reason that it was not instituted solely for a superst= tious purpose, but also for the maintenance of divine service.

Francis Green, M. A. inducted vicar in 1695, holding with this vicarage, by dispensation, the united rectories of St. Mildred and All Saints, in Canterbury. He was author of two letters relating to Reculver, preserved in the library at Lambeth, and inserted in the Bibliotheca Topographica.

Peter Vallavine, L. L. B. who was inducted in the year 1726, was also vicar of Monkton in Thanet, and of Preston near Wingham, and afterwards one of the minor canons of Canterbury cathedral. About the year 1741 he published a pamphlet, entitled ‘Observations on the present condi= tion of the current coin of the kingdom.’ This work which contains many ingenious suggestions, gave rise, it has been said, to an improvement in the coinage of guineas. He died in the year 1767.

Thomas Thomson, M. A. inducted 1757. He afterwards <read "Thompson">
resigned this for the vicarage of Elham, where he died in 1773. He was also one of the six preachers in Canterbury cathedral, and had been a missionary on the coast of Africa. Strange as it may seem in a christian minister, he was an advocate for that most inhuman and impolitic traffic the slave trade, and published in 1772 a pamphlet entitled ‘The African trade for Negro Slaves, shewn to be consis= tent with the principles of humanity, and with the laws of revealed Religion.’ – There is something shocking, bearing in mind the history of this barbarous trade, in the very title of this work.

At a small distance west of the church stood a few years past the remains of a chapel, converted into a dwelling house. This chapel was dedicated to St. James, and a hermit was appointed to officiate within it, in early times. It was suppressed or neglected previous to the reformation, as appears by the testimony of Leland, who says – 'Ther is a neglect chapel owt of the church yard, wher sum say was a parish church, or the abbay was suppressed and given to the bishop of Canterbury.' A house having a gothic entrance and the appearance of antiquity, which stood on the opposite side of the church, and was overthrown by the sea four years ago, was supposed to have been the resi= dence of this recluse. King Richard the 2d, in the third year of his reign, granted a commission to Thomas Hamond, the hermit of this chapel of St. James, which is therein said to have been instituted for the sepulture of such per= sons as were found dead upon the shore, having perished by storms and casualties of the sea, to collect the alms of charitable persons for the rebuilding of the chapel roof which had fallen down. This religious building is said to have been constructed in great measure of Roman bricks, and one arch of the wall entirely so. Its burial ground has been of late exposed to view by the falling of the cliff, and its mouldering tenants hurled from their abodes; from these remains it does not appear to have been used as a place of of sepulture since the reformation; it was but of small ex= tent, and the whole of its site is now overthrown and bu= ried in the sea.

It remains now to describe the various relicks of antiquity which have from time to time been found, or accidentally discovered at Reculver.

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ANTIQUITIES, &c.

Dr. John Battely, Archdeacon of Canterbury, who died in the beginning of the last century, was a man eminent in his time for his affection to the science of antiquities; he left behind him a manuscript, which was published some few years after his death, written in elegant latin, and having for its title 'Antiquitatcs Rutupinæ', from which, as trans= lated by the Rev. Mr. Duncombe, I shall extract such parts as relate to the present subject.

'When a part of the cliff, being undermined by the waves, fell down some years ago, I remember some brick foundations of great bulk were discovered, in which were some small vaults arched over, and while I was examining them with my hand, I saw some fragments of a tesselated pavement, and of other Roman works; but I only saw them; for very soon after, either broken by the waves, or swallowed up by the sand, even these ruins were destroyed.'

'The force of the waves demolishing the cliff, has disco= vered in particular, several cisterns. Of these the size varies, though the figure of all of them is the same, namely a square; the length of each side is from ten to twelve feet, the depth the same. As to the method of construction, they consist of posts driven deep into the ground, and the sides are every where closed up by oaken joists fixed to the posts,

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two inches thick; the bottom is strengthened by the stiffest potters' clay, thrown in and well trodden down, lest the water oozing out, should be sucked up by the sand, in short,

they are not unlike our tan pits.'

'On handling the posts and planks of these cisterns, I found some of them quite sound, and almost as hard as a stone; others were so soft and rotten as easily to be bored with the ringer; which as they were not of the same wood I suppose was owing to the difference of the materials. Of these cisterns such a multitude has been discovered almost in our memory, as proves that the ancient inhabitants of the place were very numerous. That they were designed for re= ceiving and preserving rain water, is evident not only by their mode of construction, but also by the necessary want of them, as all the springs which rise in that neighbourhood are brackish.'

Since the time of Dr. Battely I have not heard that any further discoveries of buildings or remains of ancient Recul= ver have been made; indeed since the fall of the north wall of the castrum, no other, I imagine, are to be expected, that being in all probability the limit of the town. In the year 1806 after a fall of the cliff, I observed a few feet from the surface, a portion of groined work constructed with Ro= man bricks; but as Roman bricks have been so abundant here, this might not have been a Roman work.

'It was a conjecture of Dr. Plotts, that Reculver was formerly burnt, either by accident or by an enemy: and indeed such vast masses of metal have been found there, especially of a thin plate, which adhering to brass, had some particles in it of pure gold, and which must have been formed by the melting of some brass and gold coins which lay toge=

ther; that his conjecture, which arises from this circum= stance seems to me well founded. From the great number of coins, and the vast quantity of metallic masses that have been found at Reculver, it has also been generally supposed that a mint was formerly established there, and perhaps with reason. Du Fresne produces some coins, on which the place where they were struck is marked thus: – PR. R. RB. RE. RPS. RT. RVPS. but all these in opposition to some of the letters, he endeavours to wrest to Rome or Ravenna; and with equal rashness, he tells us, that the coins marked thus, ML. PLN. LON. PLON. were not struck at London but at Lyons. But why should I not exert my privilege of con= jecture, and interpret those legends in my way, thus RVPS.; Rutupiis pecunia signata; money stamped at Rutupiæ; PLON. percussa Londini; struck at London.'

This conjecture of Dr. Battely receives support from the discovery of numerous small globules or balls of brass at Re= culver; these it is supposed were so cast, for the purpose of being afterwards struck by the mint master; in which case they would be large enough to produce small coins, such as are also found in immense numbers.

It happens, however, unfortunately for this conjecture, that none of the Reculver coins, which I have seen or heard of, bear any of these mint marks; in the hope of discovering some of them, I have attentively examined an infinite num= ber of these coins.

Of Roman coins Dr. Battely, who seems to have been a diligent collector, assures us that those of the Consuls have been found here, and of almost all the Emperors from Julius Cæsar to Honorius; but more particularly the brass coins of Tiberius and Nero, sharp and in appearance fresh

from the mint. Among those which have the appearance of silver more especially of Severus, Caracalla, Julia, Geta, and Heliogabalus, are many formed of brass, silvered over; and others merely plated with tin, as may be discovered from the melting of the surface, when exposed to the flame of a candle; tin melting with a much lower degree of heat than silver.

For my own part I have never seen any Reculver coin of an earlier date than Julius Cæsar, of whose, I suspect, I have one with the head of Augustus on the reverse; all that is legible of the inscription are the letters DIV. I have somewhere seen an engraving of this coin. I have another found here with a civic crown on one side, and the in= scription –

OB. CIVES. SERVATOS.

On the reverse –

SANOVINIVS. Q. F. III. VIR. A.A.A. P.R.M.

Of scarce or valuable coins found at Reculver by Dr. Battely we have the following account: –

'Among this large collection of Roman coins, there are several which are ranked by Vaillant and others among the scarcest; there are some indeed, perhaps uniques, which are omitted by Mediobarbus, and all the other writers on coins that I have seen. To name all would be both tedious and needless, nor are they all as useful as they are rare. I will therefore only mention one or two, which tend to illustrate the history of Britain. There is one silver coin of Severus with a figure standing between two military ensigns, which has this inscription:

SEVERVS. PIVS. AVG. BRIT.
PONTIF. TR. P. II. COS.

'Here Severus, in the 'second' year of his tribunitial power, is styled *Britannicus*, which title, however, was not given him till the 'eighteenth' year of his tribunitial power, which was the last of his life; as, with this single excep= tion, the learned know, coins, stones, history itself, con= stantly and unanimously declared. That emperor/1 was in= deed ambitious of conquest, and of the name of *Britannicus*; which brought him then old and afflicted with the gout, into this island; where, from the wall which he built across it, and not before, he received that name/2. Happening to show this coin to a French gentleman, who was an adept in this science, he thought the difficulty might be solved, by supposing that the reverse of this denier was not of Severus, but of Caracalla; as such mistakes frequently happen by the negligence of coiners. But how inadequate is this solu= tion, as it appears by his own coins that Caracalla was first elected consul, not in the 'second,' but in the 'fourth' year of his tribunitial power? I rather think that it is a coin of Severus, and was struck in our island by Clodius Albinus, who commanded the British troops: to this opinion I am in= duced by the narration of Herodian,/3 viz. that 'Severus, just seated on the throne, determining to allure Albinus, of whom he was jealous, with the bait of honour, styled him Cæsar, in his letters intreated him to undertake the prin=

/1 Herodian, iii. 14.

/2 Æl. Spartianus in Severo xviii. Bishop Gibson, in his additions to Camden, vol. i. p. 114, asserts indeed that 'Severus lived must of his time in Britain, and sometimes perhaps residing at Salisbury might give to it the name of Severia;' an oversight in that learned writer

which is unaccountable.
/3 Herodian, ii. 15.

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cipal care of the empire, and ordered money to be stamped with his image, and statues to be erected to him, insuring his favour and fidelity.' Thus Herodian. Does it not therefore seem reasonable and likely, that Albinus might then make a like return by ordering this coin to be struck, adding the title of *Britannicus* which perhaps he knew to be most acceptable to Severus?/1

'Another coin of Severus, found at Reculver, is also per= haps singular. It has the head of Severus, and, on the re= verse, a figure between two military standards, with this inscription,

L. SEPT. SEV. PERT. AVG. IMP. X.
CONCORDIAE. MILITVM.

This seems to have been coined at the time when Severus, just setting out for Alexandria, increased the pay of his sol= diers, and perhaps applauded their concord. There are others, which are both singular and useful. Cardinal Noris,/2 in order to prove that Carausius obtained terms of peace from the emperors Dioclesian and Maximinian, together with the dominion of Britain, and the title of Augustus, ap= peals to the testimony of Eutropius; and in order to confirm it, produces a singular coin of Carausius from the collection of the Great Duke of Tuscany, thus inscribed:

IMP. C. CARAVSIVS. P. F. AVG.
PAX. AVGGG. S. P. M. IXXI.

/1 Spartian however affirms that this title was conferred on Severus by the Senate, at the time of his own expedition, on account of the wall which he built from sea to sea. This was eleven years alter the death of Albinus, and sixteen years after the emperor had given him the title of Cæsar, &c.
/2 In explicatione nummi Dioclesiani, p. 23.

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where, by the letters AVGGG. he says, Dioclesian, Maxi= minian, and Carausius, *Augusti*, (or emperors,) are meant. I have another of Carausius, found at Reculver, and quite singular, on which is the head of the emperor, crowned, and, on the reverse, a type of Providence, with this in= scription,

IMP. C. CARAVSIVS. P. F. INV. AVG.
PROVID. AVGGG. C.

by which it appears that he was not only admitted to a share in the government of the world by Dioclesian and Maximi= nian, but also, on account of his success in war, arrogated to himself even the name of 'invincible.' Which happily illustrates that passage of Eutropius, where he relates, that 'when wars had ineffectually been tried against that most experienced commander, peace was at length concluded.' But farther, to authenticate the coins of Carausius, lest singly he may be thought an incompetent witness in his own cause, I can produce Dioclesian's and Maximinian's, found at Reculver, struck in the same mint, and confirming the Carausian coin:

IMP. C. DIOCLETIANVS. P. F. AVG.
PAX. AVGGG. S. P. M. IXXI.
IMP. C. MAXIMIANVS. P. F. AVG.
PAX. AVGGG. S. P. M. IXXI.

Spanheim/1 has given us, from the Palatine collection, a coin

of Carausius, preserved, as he thinks, no where else; on which is a head, crowned, and, on the reverse, two figures, with a sceptre, united in one, the one upright, the other prostrate; almost all the letters are worn out, the word

/1 In Breviario Romanæ hist. ix. 22.

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VICTOR only being legible: on mine, from Reculver, which is better preserved, not VICTOR, but CONSERVATOR, appears. If I may indulge a conjecture, as to this coin, I should say, it was struck before Carausius was admitted to a share in the empire, and that the figures bearing sceptres, and growing together, represent Jupiter and Hercules, or Dioclesian and Maximinian; the former of whom would be styled Jovius, the latter Herculeus; that by the conjunction of their bodies was meant the union of their minds, which Lactantius/1 says, was great and wonderful, 'nor could they unite in so firm a friendship, if there had not been in each one mind, the same thoughts, a like will, the same opinion.' There are three others of Carausius, which perhaps are singular. The first has a Centaur holding in his hand a globe, but the letters are almost worn out, LE. . . . only remaining. The second has a figure in a helmet, marching with a spear in his right hand, and in his left a trophy hung on his shoulder with this inscription, VIRTVS. . . . The third has a figure in a robe, standing, with her right hand leaning on a staff, in her left holding the horn of plenty; the letters round it are

TEMPORVM FELICITAS.

This may suffice as a specimen of the Reculver coins. I shall only add, that to the rim of some of the gold coins of Magnentius a small hollow pipe/2, of the same metal, is affixed, intended, no doubt, for the insertion of a small rib= bon, or thread, by which the Romans used to hang their coins, like a collar, round the neck; nor can that passage of

/1 De mortibus persecutorum, cap. 8.

/2 Dr. Harris styles this 'a loop,' (though it was rather a pipe for the insertion of a loop) and says, 'he saw such another found at Woodnes= borough, an adjoining parish.'

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Pomponius, the civilian, be understood in any other sense, where he says/1, that 'the reversion of ancient gold and silver coins, worn as jewels, may be devised.'

In addition to this account of Battely's I have only to remark, that I have examined several hundreds of coins found at Reculver, but have not been fortunate enough to meet with many of value or rarity. By far the greater number are, as may be expected in such a situation, of the lower empire, and of little value; many of these are ex= tremely small, weighing less than ten grains. Some are, however, occasionally still found of the early emperors, of the largest size and exceedingly well preserved; of this kind I have one which I value, as being finely executed, and pre= senting a similitude of that most excellent emperor Titus, who deservedly obtained the endearing title of Deliciæ hu= mani generis. – Round the head is the following inscription:

IMP. T. CAES. VESP. AUG. P. M. TR. P. COS. VIII.

On the reverse is a figure inscribed VESTA.

Another well preserved, and finely enamelled by time, of Marcus Antoninus, inscribed

M. ANTONINVS. AVG. GERM. SARMATICVS.

The reverse a female figure with an altar and cornucopia,

the inscription imperfect –

. . . . . IMP. VIII. COS. III.

A scarce coin of Maxentius inscribed

IMP. C. MAXENTIVS. P. F. AVG.

The reverse a female figure, beneath a portico, with the following inscription: –

CONSERV. URBIS. . .

The mint mark P. R. S.

/1 Lib. xxviii, ff. de usufructu.

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Another of the same æra, and perhaps a very rare coin of Severus, adopted Cæsar by Maximinus, round the head, which is well preserved, is the following inscription: –

FL. VAL. SEVERVS. NOB. CAES.

The reverse an indistinct figure with a cornucopia, inscribed

GENIO. POPVLI. ROMANI.

There is a mint mark which I cannot decipher.

A finely preserved middle brass coin of Nero, inscribed

NERO. CLAVD. CÆSAR. AVG. GERM. P. M. TR. P. IMP. II.

The reverse a male figure with a cornucopia standing before an altar burning, inscription –

GENIO. AVGVSTI.

These are among the best in my collection, I have many others of various Emperors, and in different states of preservation, one or two silver ones of Severus, and one plated, which I cannot decipher. I have remarked a great number with an armed head, and the inscription Urbs Romæ on one side, and Romulus and Remus with the wolf on the other; also several of Probus, Carausius, and Constantine among others a small one deserves particular notice: it has the head and neck of a horse, couped, as the heralds say, on one side, and a tree like the palm on the reverse; this is too well executed to be British, and I suspect it to be Carthagenian/1.'

/1 The following, though not a very scarce coin, is perhaps deserving of notice in this place; it is well preserved: –

One side represents a commander in a triumphal car, drawn by four horses abreast; inscription –

GERMANICVS CAESAR.

The other side has a most elegant figure of a Roman soldier with one arm extended, the other bearing upon the shoulder the imperial ensign; inscription –

SIGNIS. RECEP. DEVICTIS. GERM.

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Dr. Battely remarks, 'In the same place are dug up some of the gold coins which are called British, made of the metal called electrum, or of that kind of brass which Pliny says contains about one fourth gold./1 There are also some silver medals inscribed with barbarous marks, which seem to be neither British nor Gothic, but rather struck by some of the ancient Gaulish princes, of which this only is remarkable, that evident and most certain marks of the christian religion appear in almost all of them; such as figures bearing a cross; the same ensign between two figures standing; standing between two crosses; a bird, perhaps a dove, perched on a cross; and almost every where crosses the christian military ensign.'

Several of these coins are engraved in the account of Reculver, drawn up by Mr. Duncombe for the Bibliotheca To=

pographica, with the following observation: – ‘A close comparison with the coins engraved in Bouterous’s book, allowing for the difference of draughtsmen, and with va= rieties in other cabinets not yet engraved, might perhaps ascertain all these coins to be Gaulish.’

‘As to the other remains found at Reculver, this place it is observable, seldom furnishes any earthenware entire; most of them were broken by the fall of the cliff in which they lay; as appears by numerous fragments of them, which are found scattered all along the shore. Some of

/1 Professor Beckmann in his account of the chemical names of metals, informs us, that this of electrum was by the ancients dedicated to Ju= piter, and that it was by them considered a distinct metal, though only a mixture of gold and silver, because in early periods mankind were un= acquainted with the art of separating these noble metals. Pliny de= scribes electrum as a mixed metal, in which gold was united to one fifth part of its weight of silver. Plin. Hist. Nat. Tom ii. p. 619, Ed. Pa= ris 1723.

these on account of the elegance and variety of the figures that adorn them I preserve. Among them are some pots branched like vine leaves; others like scales; on one are children playing; on another Cupid lashing and taming a lion; on others a dog pursuing a hare; charioteers driving cars with four horses; the head of a lion projecting on the side of a vase, through whose perforated jaws water may be poured in drops; this perhaps was the fragment of an ewer, a vessel used in sacred offices. In short on almost all the different kinds of earthenware games are represented. Among the same fragments are some inscribed with letters; one with CCF; another TACI; a third PRIMITIVI, which was the name of a famous potter. There is also a dish al= most entire, on the middle of which are the characters MARSI. M. These letters are all inclosed within an ob= long figure, of four sides; which I suppose was the shape of the stamps with which potters used to engrave their names on their vessels.’

‘I have an earthen pipe found at Reculver seventeen inches and a half long; it has two oblong holes on opposite sides; the nostrils or vents through which the smoke issues; the perforated sides are five inches broad, those not perfo= rated above six; it is almost an inch thick; within it has a smoaky blackness which plainly denotes its use; it being one of those tubes which Seneca mentions as being invented in his memory, ‘fixed in walls by which the heat was dif= fused all round, and the top and the bottom were at once equally warmed:’/1 that this was formerly fixed in a wall, appears from the mortar which almost every where adheres to it.’

/1 Seneca Epist. 90.

Of the use and application of these pipes, the following account may be found in Beckmann s History of Inventions, &c. – ‘A large stove or several smaller ones were con= structed in the earth under the edifice; and these being filled with burning coals, the heat was conveyed from them into dining rooms, bed chambers, or other apartments which one wished to warm by means of pipes inclosed in the wall. – The upper end of these steam pipes were often ornamented, with the representation of a lion’s or a dolphin’s

head, or any other figure according to fancy, and could be opened or shut at pleasure. It appears that this appa= ratus, was first constructed in the baths and became ex= tended afterwards to common use.' It seems astonishing that this invention should not have led to the discovery of chimneys, to which it so nearly approached; yet from the same learned and ingenious work it evidently appears that the Roman habitations were deficient in this most necessary and convenient appendage. Many remains of these sub= terraneous stoves have been discovered in different parts of Great Britain.

'The variety of brass utensils at length brought to light, after they had struggled with rust in the bowels of the earth for above 1300 years, if I had not redeemed them would have been doomed to the melting pot, as a brazier told me he had melted above 30 pounds weight of such things found at Reculver. Among those which I have preserved, are, if I mistake not, sewing and weaving needles, pins, bodkins, tongues of buckles; rings furnished with keys, and en= graved with seals; the brass ornaments of chests, belts, bridles, harness, keys, fragments of armour; fibulæ of various kinds; little images; ligulæ; spoons; a strigil or

flesh scraper; the half of clasped knives; tweezers; bullæ; a gold bracelet adorned with sapphires; with numbers more which I am utterly at a loss to know in what class to rank.'

The most remarkable of these is the strigil or flesh scraper, which Dr. Batteley asserts is the only one ever found in Britain – It was found, he tells us, by a country= man, in a cistern at Reculver, who, from its being gilt suspected it was solid gold. 'It is not only entire (he tells us) but almost wholly free from rust; the substance with which it is gilt, I suppose preserving its brightness undimini= shed. – You would think that the poet Symposius had this in view when he describes a brass strigil – 'Red, crooked, large, bedewed with various drops, by a false splendour counterfeiting gold, a slave to sweat, I faint with moderate toil.'/1 Nor is it less accurately described by Apuleius, as 'having one end straight, and terminating in a point, and the other end hollow and bent, so that by the one it may be held in the hand, and through the other the sweat may flow as in a channel./2

'As to its scarceness, Jerom Mercurialis has given two which were found in the ruins of Trajan's baths; a third from the museum of Nicholas Fabricius, is exhibited by Laurence and Pignorius; Claude Molinet, canon of St. Genevieve, says, that three are preserved in the library of <t>hat church, of which he has given us the form only of <t>wo.'

'The strigil was applied to two uses; the one in bathing,

/1 Anigmat. 86.
/2 Floridorum 4. ii.

the other in medicine; a line in Persius is to be understood of the former,

> 'Go boy, and carry strigils to tbe bath
> Of rich Crispinus.'/1

Of its use in medicine, which seems quite adventitious and accidental, and to have been owing to the commodiousness

of its shape, which is bent and hollow we are told by Celsus,/2 who advises it to be used for the purpose of instil= ling medicines into the ear, the same direction is also given from him, by Scribonius Largus/3 and Pliny.'/4

I am inclined to suspect this instrument to be one whose use and application is at least doubtful if not unknown; there seems an absurdity in rubbing the skin with an instru= ment of metal, which would be much better, at least more pleasantly done, with a napkin or soft brush; indeed from a passage in Pliny it appears that the word strigil is applied to cloths or napkins used by wrestlers after their exercise, which may explain the line of Persius above quoted. Where the word occurs in Celsus and other medical writers is surely means a syringe. The quotation above from Apu= leius seems to point out the form and use of this instrument very distinctly, but can Apuleius be deemed good autho= rity, there is something absurd and ridiculous in his work.

Of small hollow instruments of silver and brass, called by the Romans, ligulæ, and cochleares, some straight and others curved and used some for domestic purposes si=

/1 Sat. v. ver. 126.
/2 In re medicin. vi. 7.
/3 De. comp. med. 39.
/4 Hist. Nat. xxv. 13.

milar to spoons, others as measures, several have been found at Reculver. Two of these are engraved in Batteley's book, and described by him much at large, more so than their rarity or importance requires. I have one or two of these, broken and imperfect in my possession, and have seen se= veral fragments of others.

Dr. Battely describes two handles of knives in his col= lection, these knives were bent back into the handles, and some portions of one of them remained; the handles were of brass and on the inner side were figures of a dog pursuing a hare, similar to some modern pen-knives, which I have seen manufactured at Birmingham.

'As to the ornaments of dress, (says Dr. B.) I have fibulæ, bodkins, bullæ; fibulæ in particular almost without number; some of which curiously and artfully made, re= tain some marks either of the gold varnish with which they were washed, or speaks of the colours that were burned in, or beazels, or at least sockets in which formerly were pre= cious stones.'

'The bullæ are frequently mentioned by the ancients. Macrobius says that the bulla had two uses, 'that it was given to youths of distinction, to be worn at the bosom, in the form of a heart; that viewing it they might think them= selves men, if their hearts were rightly disposed.' That it was worn by conquerors in their triumphs with such re= medies inclosed in it, as they thought most efficacious against envy.' Mine are applicable to either use, for they are not only formed in the shape of a heart, but a heart is also imbossed upon them; and being hollow like boxes they were fit for the reception of amulets.'

The bulla seems to have been an appendage of Roman dress, and worn by youths until the age of seventeen, when

they were discarded with other ornaments and hung up to the penates or household gods; these ornaments were of

various kinds according to the rank of the wearer.

Several little images of Harpocrates, the Egyptian god of silence, having one hand upon the mouth, have been found here, they are of brass, about an inch in length.

A friend of mine was in possession of a colossal finger also of brass, about three times the proportion of the hu= man body, he had hopes that the statue to which it be= longed might at some future time be found, which not happening, it is probable this fragment was brought here as old brass, for the purpose of being recast for other uses.

Several writing styles have been found here, one of these in my possession is brass about three inches long, pointed at both ends, and having some attempt at ornament in the centre.

I have an antique seal found at Reculver, whether Ro= man or English is doubtful, but most probably English; it is of brass, about an inch and half in length, and curved like a hook for the convenience of holding; its impression a kind of roundle or double circle.

In the first vol. of the Bibliotheca Topographica, in an engraving of some antiquities found here, and communi= cated by Mr. Gostling to the antiquarian society in the year 1738. These seem to have exercised the conjectural abilities of our antiquarians in no common degree, and va= rious have been their opinions concerning them. By some they are supposed to have been the antennæ, or cross bars of the Roman vexillum or standard, representations of which are frequently found in coins of Constantine, and others of the later empire, and may be seen engraved among the Roman ensigns in the Aspilogia of Sir H. Spelman. By

another class of antiquarians they are confidently said to have been (mirabile dictu) yards of ships, though the longest measures only nine inches. A third description of these learned gentlemen have with more shew of probability con= jectured that lliey are the beams of scales or steelyards. But it remains for the fourth class to inform us truely re= specting their real use and application. They were then real antennæ, not of Roman vexilla, but of banners born by the Monks and others in religious processions. Many of them have been discovered in various situations, on some of which are inscribed the Monkish legends – *ave maria*, and *a domine tecum*, which sufficiently establishes this opinion.

In the eighth volume of the Archæologia, is a paper by Mr. Douglas describing a Roman tile found here which has nothing to distinguish it from others, except it be what the discoverer calls a ‘curious rude scrawl,’ and which he is willing to suppose may be letters; it bears, however, no resemblance whatever to the Roman characters, and ap= pears either to have been the effect of accident, or some scrawling propensity of the maker, who little thought that his rude lines would merit an essay and an engraving, at the distance of nearly two thousand years.

A description of some fossils and other remains of the antediluvian world, discovered in the cliff near Reculver, by Dr. Gray, of Canterbury, may be found in the 22d vol. of the Philosophical Transactions. These consisted of a strata of shells embedded in greenish sand, they seemed firm and some of them entire, but crumbled to powder upon be= ing handled. In the lower part of this strata were found several portions of the trunk, root and branches of trees. They were about twelve feet from the summit of the cliff.

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The publication of the foregoing account of Reculver having for reasons, for which the writer is in no way ac= countable, been delayed some months, it may be right in this place to take notice of what has happened to its vene= rable remains since that time, in order to bring down the account to the present period. The determination of the parishioners to remove the building of the church referred to in one of the notes, was begun to be carried into effect last summer: the lead was removed from the roof and spires, the bells were unhung, and the church rendered unfit for the purposes of congregational devotion. In this stage of the business an application was made from the Di= rectors of the Trinity-house, and a stop was put to any fur= ther proceedings. In the mean time nothing has been done towards erecting a chapel, the living has become a sinecure, and the inhabitants are under the necessity of travelling a distance of not less than four miles to a place of public worship; a circumstance much to be regretted, as it de= prives the aged poor of perhaps the only consolation which life affords them.

It was to be expected that the application of the Trinity-house would be followed up, on the part of the Directors of that corporation, by some means for the preservation of this famous sea mark; and the lovers of the picturesque and beautiful, as well as the venerators of antiquity began to entertain hopes that their favourite object would be se= cured from impending ruin. The summer, however, passed away and nothing was done; on the approach of winter, a

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feeble attempt, for it deserves no better name, was com= menced, and slowly proceeded in. How perfectly ineffectual this attempt is, would ere this have been seen, had there happened any strong gales or extraordinary tides, but the winter has been unusually favourable, and very little in= croachment has been made by the sea.

A strange fatality has attended every attempt as yet made to preserve this fabrick, and I conceive the time is now gone by, iu which any plan will be attended with success. Four years ago even the present might have presented a chance, which at this time in my opinion it does not hold forth. The scheme of accumulating beach and sand by means of large stones thrown loosely down, which was tried many years ago, was ill-judged and absurd, and eventually produced the very reverse of what was intended. A range of piles and faggots or fascines, constituting what engineers call a groin, was tried in a direction parallel to the cliff, and near the low water mark with no better success; the first high tide attended with a strong North wind swept it away. The present attempt is of a similar kind; groins are constructed at intervals of about four rods, extending from the edge of the cliff down to the low water mark – they are formed of a double row of piles about three feet distant from each other, and nearly of the same height, the space between them being filled up with faggots and brush wood.

Three only of these groins are at this time (March 1810) completed. They are intended to promote the accumu= lation of sand and beach, which there is no doubt, they will in a certain degree effect: had they been applied with this intention ten years ago, when the distance from the

building to the edge of the cliff was not less than from fifty to a hundred yards, they might eventually have preserved the fabrick. In the course of time, by the accumulation of sand and the retention of what might fall from the cliff, and by the repeated use of these groins a shelving beach might have been formed, upon which the sea would break harmless. But whoever takes a view of the present scene, must be convinced, that any such attempt at this time will be ineffectual. The cliff is upwards of 30 feet high, it is formed of loose sand, offering no resistance to the sea, which in high tides breaks against it to the height of not less than eight feet, and the building is distant only 15 feet from the edge of the precipice. In this predicament one spring tide accompanied with a strong North wind, would be sufficient, to remove, as it has already done in many instances which have come under my observation, the whole of the space between the turrets and the sea; the present works in such case would not be of the smallest service.

Independent of this, there is another circumstance of which the directors of the present works are not perhaps aware, for if they were, they would probably never have un= dertaken them. The cliff is yearly mouldering away not only from the action of the sea, but also from other causes, which though not so violent and sudden in their operations are more steady and regular in their effects. During the win= ter of 1808, a space of not less than ten feet from my own measurement, was removed by the action of the weather only. The winter was rainy, attended with frequent inter= vals of frost and thaw. The loose and crumbling materials of these cliffs, soaked with rain, then suddenly acted upon by frost and subsequent thaw, gave way in all directions, by

a process too familiar to require description. Against this cause of destruction the works at present forming offer no resistance, and it is evident that another winter similar to that of 1808, must complete the overthrow of the building.

Thus is this ancient fortress beseiged by a powerful com= bination of all the elements, and deserted, or feebly sup= ported by its natural ally; under such circumstances its fall is inevitable.

During the past winter, as there has been very little fall of the cliff, the consequent discoveries of coins and anti= quities have been in proportion. I have only seen a few small and much mutilated coins of no value.

At the present moment the church is deprived of its roof, and the few remaining monuments of the dead are exposed to be broken and injured by the weather and the accidental falling of stones or timber. No care has been taken to re= move or secure them. A violent attempt has been recently made to displace the brass effigie of John Sandway, and the monument of St. Cavaliero Maycote has been mutilated. The spires are deprived of their leaden sheathing, leaving the ribs of timber

—— bare to the angry blast
Which whistles through them.

THE END.

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