
REPRODUCED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF H.M STATIONERY OFFICE, 1903
PLATE I.
Folly Lane
SOUTH CADBURY
St. Thomas à Becket's Church
(Rectory)
Rectory
Red Lion
Castle Farm
Queen Anne's Washing Well
King Arthur's Well
THE FIVE CUTTINGS MADE IN 1913 ARE MARKED, AND NUMBERED BY FIGURES 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Cadbury Castle
or
Camelot
Hydraulic Ram
Parsonage Farm
Holy Trinity Church
(Rectory)
SUTTON MONTIS
Allotment Gardens
Links 100 0 4 10 15
Feet 100 0 300 1000

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1913.

PART II.—PAPERS, ETC.

Trial-Excavations at Cadbury Castle, S. Somerset, 1913.

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

I. Bibliography.

1. Journal, British Archæological Association, Vol. XXXVIII, 407-419 (with plan); Cadbury Camp, by C. W. Dymond, F.S.A. See also Vol. XXIV, 187.
2. Proc. Som. Arch. and N. H. Society. Cadbury Camp, by C. W. Dymond, Vol. XXIX, ii, 110-116 (with plan). "Camelot," by the Rev. J. A. Bennett, Vol. XXXVI, ii, 1-19. For minor references, see also Vols. VII, i, 19; VII, ii, 57-60; VIII, ii, 66-68 (with plan, by Rev. F. Warre); XVI, i, 18-26; XXII, ii, 62; XXIV, i, 12; LII, i, 76 (Roman coins); LIX, i, 63, 65.
3. Earthwork of England, by A. H. Allcroft (1908), 95-99 (with plan).
4. Victoria County History, Somerset, Vol. II, 484-5 (with plan), by C. H. Bothamley. See also Vol. I, 203, 358.
5. Journal, Anthropological Institute, Vol. VIII, 190-194, "Observations on the Topography of Sigwell" (Charlton Horethorne), by Major-Genl. A. Lane Fox (with plates). Also published in *Proc. Som. Arch. & N. H. Soc.*, XXIV, ii, 84-88 (without the plates).

6. Somerset Record Society, Vol. XV, 189, 191, "Description of Somerset," by Thos. Gerard, 1633.
7. Leland in Somerset, *Proc. Som. Arch. & N. H. Soc.*, Vol. XXXIII, ii, 79-80.
8. Talk at a Country House, by Sir Edward Strachey, Bart., 1895. Chapter vii, *Riding Down to Camelot* (pp. 150-160).
9. Somersetshire: Highways, Byways and Waterways, by C. R. B. Barrett (1894), 1-9 (with two illustrations).
10. Highways and Byways of Somerset, by Edward Hutton (1912), 225-228.
11. Collinson's History of Somerset, Vol. II, 71-72.
12. Phelps' History of Somerset (1835), part relating to Earthworks, 118-119 (with plan).
13. Proceedings, Bath Field Club, Vol. I, iii, 99-100; VII, 81-83.
14. School History of Somerset, by Walter Raymond (1907), 46-52 (with illustrations).

The following references may also be given: *Som. & Dor. N. & Q.*, I, 61; *Glastonbury Lake Village*, Vol. I, 230; Leland, *Assertio Arturii*, p. 29, and *Itinerary* (edit. Hearne), Vol. II, 47; Selden, note to Drayton's *Polyolbion* (edit. 1612), p. 54; Stow, *Annals*, 55; Speed, *Theatre of Great Britaine*, 23; Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum* (edit. 2), p. 150; Musgrave, *Antiq. Brit. Belg.*, Vol. I, 172; Gough, *Adds. to Camden*, Vol. I (1806), 92; Defoe, *Tour through Great Britain* (1769), Vol. II, 27.

II. Introductory Remarks.[1]

THIS camp or fortress is known as Cadbury Castle, Cadbury Camp, Camelot or Camalet (perhaps because of the river Camel close by). Naturally it is often confused with Cadbury Camp, near Tickenham, which has the distinction of having produced a bronze spear-head (now in the County Museum). Then there is a less important earthwork of the same name near Yatton, and yet another, sometimes called "Cadbury Castle," between Crediton and Tiverton. The name, "Cadbury," also occurs at Chulmleigh, if not again in Devon; also at Bitton (Glos.).[2]

There are two names which will always remain associated with this impregnable fortress of ancient times, namely, the Rev. James A. Bennett, a former Secretary of this Society and Rector of South Cadbury—an antiquary who had a pro-

1. Chapters II to VII comprise the main part of the writer's address to the Society at Cadbury Camp on July 17th, 1913.
2. There is a "Gadbury Banks," a camp near Eldersfield, Worcestershire.

found love for this hill,—and Mr. C. W. Dymond, F.S.A., who made a plan and published a topographical account of the camp.

Mr. Dymond's paper on the subject appeared in our *Proceedings*, and in the *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*; Mr. Bennett wrote a paper entitled "Camelot" for our *Proceedings*, which was also issued in pamphlet form (see Bibliography). If not so truly scientific and technical as such records often are now-a-days, it is a highly entertaining paper which even the so-called "man in the street" could not call dry—a paper which, if not sufficiently exact with regard to the provenance of the relics found in his day, records, in a most acceptable manner, tradition, legend and romance attaching to the place, some of which would have been lost for all time had not Mr. Bennett's pen preserved them.

III. Tradition and Legend.

We will, before entering upon more serious matters, make a few abridgements from the paper, "Camelot."

Many of the country folk believe that the hill is hollow, but nobody is able to define this mysterious idea. In this connection a native was known to say, "I wish, Sir, one of those railroads would come along this way, and run a tunnel through the hill, and then . . . !"

Many years ago the top of the camp was arable. One season the crop was barley, and it was stacked just within the northern earthwork where the ground dips towards the eastern entrance. When the rick was made it was plainly visible from the fields below, near "Chapel," but viewed from that point it was said to have sunk down out of sight by threshing time. The informant was a man accustomed to farming, and quite aware that stacks settle naturally.

On our way up the hill from South Cadbury we pass "King Arthur's Well," situated in the middle ditch. There is another spring, "Queen Anne's Wishing Well," low down on

the northern face, in the fosse between the third and fourth rampart (see Plate I). Let anyone, the story goes, listen carefully at either well, while his friend claps down the cover of the other well, and the noise will be heard. "Now this, Sir," they say, "could not be unless the hill were hollow."

Mr. Bennett records that he found a large quern or mill-stone in the enclosure. His labourer was much puzzled, but when its use was pointed out, he said, "Now, Sir, I see what I could never make out afore, what the fairies wanted with carrying corn up here out of Foreside" (an arable field below). "We all know that the fairies did so," went on the man, "but I never could make out for why, but now I see, for here's their grindstone."

Legends of the Cadbury fairies are deeply rooted, and here is one recorded by Mr. Bennett. "The fairies were obliged to leave when the bells of the church were hung, and they left all their gold behind them; and it is a pity our squire won't dig into the hill, for there's lots of gold in it, and folks do say that on the night of the full moon King Arthur and his men ride round the hill, and their horses are shod with silver, and a silver shoe has been found in the track where they do ride; and when they have ridden round the hill they stop to water their horses at the Wishing Well."

Mr. Bennett speaks of a hut-dwelling which he dug, but unfortunately he does not clearly locate this or other digging. At the bottom was a rough flagstone. When struck it sounded hollow, and the labourer got into a state of excitement. "Here it is, Sir." "What?" "We have found the way in now!" and he dragged out the stone in frantic eagerness. But instead of the door of a cavern, the stone, when removed, revealed another like the first. This, needless to say, was attacked with diminished energy, and then, alas, it became clear that the natural bedding of the rock had been reached. There were running in the man's mind, no doubt, dreams of wonderful caverns, and visions of certain mysterious gates,

which the country folk talk about, but which the eye of living man has never seen.

Another man said that when a boy he had seen the upper corner of the iron durns, and part of an iron door. "I wonder where those iron gates are, Mesh?" said Mr. Bennett to one of the old villagers. "Why don't ee know, Sir, up there among they ash trees." Country tradition was right, at any rate, in placing the iron gates they dream of at one of the ancient entrances of the original fortress.

We are told how, besides this monthly procession by moonlight around the entrenchments, King Arthur and his knights rode down from Camelot to drink the waters of a spring beside Sutton Montis Church on Christmas eve. It is rumoured also that on the eve of St. John anyone venturing up the hillside will see something strange.

To the N.W. of the Camp, between Little Weston and Sparkford Wood, there is a track called "King Arthur's Hunting Causeway." This path, also called "King Arthur's Lane," is now almost obliterated. The countrymen used to say that on rough winter's nights King Arthur and his hounds could be heard along the track. In a field called "Westwoods," at the foot of the west side of the Camp and close beside "the Causeway," Mr. Bennett states that there are some trenches containing the skeletons of men and boys, but no females. The bodies are said to have been thrown in without order.

The Camp has on more than one occasion attracted the local poet, and we will conclude the lighter part of this paper by quoting a few unpublished lines to show to what extent the imagination can be carried with regard to the legends and traditions of Camelot.

"The green woods clothe the summit now; the green grass o'er it spreads;
On golden flowers of 'Autumn Stars' the village maiden treads,
But knows, that far beneath her feet, within the caverned hill,
King Arthur and his mail-clad Knights are soundly sleeping still,
With golden lamps reflected in polished marble floors,
And ever-watchful dragons guarding the golden doors.

"She knows that they, who ne'er have sinned, nor caused a heart to grieve,
Whose faith is firm, and love is true, who kneel on St. John's Eve
And lave their eyes in Arthur's Well, shall see the hill subside,
The passage open at their feet, the golden gates divide,
And Arthur couched amid his Knights, each girded with his sword;
And by the trancèd monarch's head a priceless jewel-hoard."

Shakespeare was probably thinking of this place when he makes the Earl of Kent, in "King Lear," exclaim,—

"Goose, if I had you upon Sarum plain
I'd drive ye cackling home to Camelot."

IV. Other Notes on Cadbury Castle.

It has been suggested that this fortress was "the head and front" of the British resistance against the South and West Saxons, during the long century which elapsed between the storm of Sarum (552) and the ultimate conquest of Somerset to the banks of the Parret by Kenwalch of Wessex (658). About it would gather traditions of the struggle; and as tradition faded into legend, here were localized the great deeds of the national hero, Arthur. Here, it is said, Arthur held his court, hence he rode forth to his twelve great fights, and hence he was carried dying to the "island-valley of Avilion," there to be laid upon the magic ship and piloted by the Three Queens into spaces of faërie and legend. It may perhaps be that the association of the Good King with Cadbury has no better foundation than the immediate neighbourhood of the villages of Queen Camel and West Camel, in reality deriving their names from the little river Cam or Camel, an affluent of the Yeo or Ivel. Camel suggests Camelot—a word which has been spelt in at least a dozen ways. In whatever way the seed of the legend was borne hither, it has certainly flourished very excellently upon the spot. Arthur may have been, as Dr. Guest thought, a creature of flesh and blood, the son of parents half British and half Roman. He may, on the other hand, be but a forgotten god-name incarnated in human guise.
—*A. Hadrian Allcroft.*



CADBURY CASTLE, FROM THE SOUTH.

Part of the Village of Sutton Montis in the foreground.

From a Photograph by Mr. J. Trevor Davies.

"Historia Britonum," ascribed to Nennius, and probably dating from the eighth century, is nearly all we possess that is of historic value with regard to this real or fabulous prince. If real, he appears to have been born towards the close of the fifth century, and probably in the south of England.

All that can be safely said of the alleged connection of Arthur with Cadbury, is that, if this personage has been truly identified, as to the chief incidents of his career, with the West of England, and if the Camelot of romance had any historic reality, then this camp has perhaps the best title to the remains of that place.—*C. W. Dymond.*

The earliest topographer to notice Cadbury was Leland (1542), but space will not permit of quoting many of his words. Among other things he stated that, "There was much dusky blew stone that People of the Villages therby hath caryid away" . . . "Much Gold, Sylver and Coper of the *Romaine* Coynes hath be found ther yn plouing: and lykewise in the Feldes in the Rootes of this Hille, with many other antique Thinges."

Camden (1586), Drayton (1612), Stow (1615), Speed (1627), and Musgrave (1719), all in their turn speak of Cadbury, while Thomas Gerard of Trent (1633) says, on "Camallett Castle" are "the expresse footings of a ruinated Castle trenched and fortified, as is also the whole hill with 5 or 6 trenches soe steep and deepe as a man may sooner slide than goe downe at them." But Stukeley (1724) is the only topographer who really added to the information given by Leland, and recorded that the following were found in the camp:—"Many round pebbles, probably for slings or cross-bows, immense quantities of Roman coins, camp utensils, remains of military equipage, urns, paterae, fibulae, bolts, and hand-grindstones." He also recorded that an urn, holding about two quarts, was found filled with Roman coins in the common field of Corton Dinham, two miles south of Cadbury. Collinson repeats Stukeley with very little additional information.

"But if we are really to know anything of the Cadbury of the past, we must first withdraw beyond the influence of the spell which the beautiful romance of the days of chivalry has cast about this spot." We may, perhaps, dismiss Leland's silver horse-shoe, and probably Stukeley's practorium, pavements, hypocausts and supposed vaults also. The large number of Roman coins which have been found here and in other parts of the parish close to the camp, from before the time of Leland to the present day, has probably been the chief reason why various authorities have regarded the camp as being of Roman origin, in spite of the fact that it lacks all the characteristics of a Roman fortress.

V. General Description of the Camp.

Cadbury Camp is situated in the parish of South Cadbury, about 5¼ miles in a bee line north of Sherborne, 4½ miles south of Castle Cary, and about 6½ miles east of the Roman Station on the Fosse Way at Ilchester. The great camp of Ham Hill is 10½ miles to the south-west. Cadbury appears to form part of the great outcrop of the inferior oolite, resting upon the lias which comes to the surface at the foot of the hill. In point of strength it is one of the most formidable of contour-camps, having no less than four successive or concentric lines of ramparts with intervening ditches, carried entirely round and following the natural form of the hill. The position is further strengthened by detached lengths of outer embankments on the N. and N.E.; on the eastern side by a piece of bold escarpment; and on the S. and S.W. by a series of six rows of so-called "lynches" or "lynchets," which here appear to be terraces cut out of the solid rock, now grass-covered. (See Plan, Plate I,[3] and Plate III, A).

3. The Plan has been reproduced from the 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (parts of Sheets LXXIV, 8 and 12), with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. The writer has made a few additions for the purposes of this paper. The Director-General of Ordnance Survey informed the writer that the magnetic declination of the compass at Cadbury Castle (by Rücker's tables corrected by later observations) was, on June 1st, 1913, 16° 25′ west of true north.



A.- Camelot photographed at 7 p. m, from the foot of Paddock Hill, looking N.N.W. The "lynchets" below the ramparts are well seen. On the right the Sherborne-Cadbury road.



B.- Cutting 1, looking S.W., showing the dry-stone walling and the pitched Entrance. The right-hand figure stands in the middle of the ancient S. W. approach into the camp.

CADBURY CASTLE, SOUTH SOMERSET, 1913.

From Photographs by Mr. H. St. George Gray.

The Camp is perhaps best described as a spherical triangle with the angles pointing north, south-east, and south-west. In walking round the Camp at its base one covers little more than a mile. The upper vallum covers a distance of about 3,700ft., or rather more than two-thirds of a mile, and encloses an area of 18 acres. The highest point is just 500ft. above sea-level, and about 190ft. (average) above the foot of the lowest rampart.

There are two original entrances. That on the N.E., in the position of the best means of approach to the interior of the Camp, has a flanking defence at the top—the recurve of the ramparts right and left of what was perhaps the principal entrance. The other is on the S.W., overlooking Sutton Montis; this entrance-way is about 550ft. long, horizontally measured. One or two writers claim a third entrance on the east side where the maps show a break through the earthworks. (See Plan, Plate I). There is much doubt as to the antiquity of this gap, and Phelps, among others, ignored it. It may have been made for the convenience of a former occupier of the land. The Rev. F. Warre, on the other hand, argued that this way was also ancient. Excavations alone can prove this and many other theoretical points which have been raised from time to time.

Towards the west of the interior space is a natural platform, sometimes called "The Praetorium," "Arthur's Palace," or "Arthur's Castle," now having steep sides to the S., W. and N.W.,[4] where, we venture to think, quarrying has been carried on, perhaps for the purpose of obtaining stone for the wall which supports the inner side of the upper vallum, and is continuous round the Camp on all sides but the south. This wall, no doubt, is of considerable age, but not what one would call ancient.

The writer has not measured the relative height of the ram-

4. It was in this position that the members were assembled on July 17th, 1913, to hear the writer's address.

parts, but Mr. C. H. Bothamley[5] gives a section of the earthworks at one point where the vertical height from the foot of the fourth rampart to the crest of the first is 144½ft., the lowermost bank being 42½ft. high, and the two upper ones each 38ft.

VI. The Neighbouring Hills.

It does not appear that parishes in the immediate neighbourhood of Cadbury have produced many archæological remains, but Sparkford to the west is an exception. We must however pass over the Bronze Age and Roman remains which have been found there. (Exhibited in Taunton Museum).[6] The hills to the east and south of this fortress are decidedly interesting. Their names from east to south are Littleton Hill, Hicknoll Slait, Pen Hill, Charwell Hill, Sigwell, Gurt or Beacon Hill, and Paddock Hill. Between them and Cadbury is the valley of Whitcombe with its central stream rising in Sigwell, or the Six Wells springs. Beyond these hills is a table-land, rising to a height of 637 feet above sea-level.

At Sigwell[7] are a small camp, a round barrow and a twin-barrow, which were examined by General Pitt-Rivers, Prof. Rolleston, the Rev. J. A. Bennett and others in 1877. This camp was described as being earlier in point of date than the barrows, the periods being recorded as Neolithic and Bronze Age respectively. There are entrenchments also upon the promontory of Charwell, and the writer has noticed traces of small banks of Littleton Hill to the north. Gurt should have traces of earthworks also. These entrenched hills were probably outposts dependent on the larger fortress of Cadbury. The high, dry and well-watered Vale of Whitcombe would be

5. *Vict. Co. Hist., Somerset*, II, 485.

6. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, VII (1856-7), i, 27, and plate; vol. LI, i, 73.

7. Taunton Museum contains two finely-chipped leaf-shaped flint arrowheads from Sigwell Camp, part of a Late-Celtic weaving comb ("Glastonbury Lake Village," I, 278), and a fragment of ornamented pottery of the same period.

the only suitable place in the neighbourhood where the Cadbury flocks and herds could be pastured. It is very obvious that the sources of water supply and the command of these hills must have been a matter of vital importance to the occupiers of Camelot. It would appear, therefore, that we have evidence of a great central fortress defended on its weakest side by a chain of detached but dependent outposts.

VII. Antiquities found at Cadbury Castle by the Rev. J. A. Bennett and others.

Had many of the relics discovered at Camelot by Mr. Bennett[8] been found in the Lake-villages of Somerset no surprise would have been caused, and these particular specimens may be referred to the Late-Celtic Period (dating approximately from B.C. 200 to A.D. 100). The spindle-whorls of lead and earthenware are typical (Plate V, B and C), and the baked clay sling-bullets (Plate V, F) have been found in large numbers in the Lake-villages. The bronze terret-ring for horse-harness belongs to this period (Fig. 1); also the armlet with hook-and-eye fastening, ornamented with a row of dots-and-circles (Plate V, A).

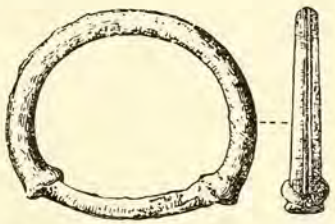


Fig. 1.—Bronze Terret-Ring found at Camelot by the Rev. J. A Bennett. (*Scale ½ linear.*) *From a Drawing by Mr. E. Sprankling.*

Mr. Bennett also found at Camelot two pieces of a Kimmeridge shale armlet,[8a] a finely worked flint celt (Plate V, E, described on p. 13), portion of a triangular loom-weight of clay, a perforated whetstone, and the greater part of seven

8. Those exhibited in Taunton Museum before 1913.

8a. Such fragments are frequently met with in Late-Celtic and Roman sites, and are extremely common at Caerwent.

pots (much repaired), of black, brown and red earthenware, one having the base pierced with four holes. This pottery will be briefly mentioned in Vol. II of "The Glastonbury Lake Village," as the general *facies*, form and ornament compare very favourably. Some of the pottery referred to is related to the incised ware which in France appears to be confined to Armorica and the S.E. Provinces, and which as far as Britain is concerned has been found to a larger extent in Somerset than in the other counties of England,—and rarely further north than Hunsbury Camp in Northants. Its distribution in Somerset, as far as known at present, includes the Lake-villages of Glastonbury and Meare, Ham Hill, Worlebury Camp, Wookey Hole, and Cannington Park Camp. Dr. Bulleid is working at this class of pottery,—with its interesting technique and remarkable designs,—and bearing in mind what will be published before long we will refrain from enlarging upon the subject here.

The following is a description of some of the relics found at Camelot before 1913; and exhibited in Taunton Museum :—

Bronze Objects.

Terret-ring (illustrated in Fig. 1) of a plain type found with Late-Celtic remains. A terret of similar outline was found in the Glastonbury Lake-village (Vol. I of that work, Plate xliii, E 8). Taunton Museum contains terrets also from Knowle Hill (Bawdrip), Ham Hill, and Barbury Castle Camp, Wilts. The well known enamelled examples from the Polden Hills, above Edington, are in the British Museum.

Bracelet formed from a thin strip of bronze, 3·5mm. in width; max. ext. diam. 58mm.; it has a hook-and-eye fastening like the bracelet, E 44, from the Glastonbury Lake-village (Vol. I of that work, Plate xlii). Although much worn a line of dot-and-circle ornament can still be traced; similar ornamentation occurs on a bronze bracelet from Caerwent (*Venta Silurum*) and another from Bittern Manor, near Southampton (*Clausentum*).[8b] Figured in Plate V, A.

Both these specimens were presented by the Rev. J. A. Bennett, 1891.

8b. Exhibited in the Tudor House Museum, Southampton.

Lead Whorl.

Whorl of lead (perhaps a spindle-whorl); the central perforation 6mm. in diam.; thickness of whorl 11mm. It has flat faces and rounded sides. Figured in Plate V, B.
Presented by the Rev. J. A. Bennett, 1891.

Other Whorls.

Spindle-whorl made from a piece of ornamented brown pottery of concavo-convex cross-section; max. diam. 29·5mm.; diam. of hole 6·5mm. Figured in Plate V, C.
Presented by the Rev. J. A. Bennett, 1891.

Earthenware spindle-whorl, of large size and bi-convex cross-section; diam. 52mm.; thickness 33mm.; hole 8·5mm. in diam. The edge of the whorl is ornamented with transverse notches indented by nail and finger.[9] Found on the Camp in 1910. Figured in Plate V, D.
Presented by the Rev. T. Griffiths, 1910.

Flint Implements.

Chipped and polished axe, or celt,[10] of ochreous-coloured flint, finely worked and patinated; the crescentic cutting-edge is bevelled from both faces; length $5\frac{5}{8}$ins.; max. width $2\frac{5}{8}$ins.; max. thickness $1\frac{7}{10}$ins.; weight $13\frac{1}{2}$ozs. avoirdupois. Found at Cadbury Castle in 1881 (Rev. J. A. Bennett Collection). Figured in Plate V, E.
Presented by Mrs. J. A. Bennett, 1913.

Scraper of horse-shoe shape, found on the surface.
Presented by Mr. Cyril Croft, 1913.

Sling-Bullet.

Baked clay sling-bullet of fusiform shape, well made and smooth; length 48mm. Found by Colonel Wm. Woodforde. Figured in Plate V, F.

VIII. The Trial-Excavations at Camelot, 1913.

The trial-excavations of 1913 began on June 17th and continued until June 24th, during which time five cuttings, nos. 1

9. A spindle-whorl with somewhat similar but better defined nail and finger ornament round the edge was found on Ham Hill, 1912, Site D'10 (Taunton Museum).

10. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XXXVI, ii, 12; *Proc. Bath Field Club*, VII, 83.

to 5, were made. Six men were employed, including a foreman who had done similar work elsewhere.[11] The weather, although showery, was on the whole favourable; and the excavations were visited by several antiquaries, some coming from long distances.

Cuttings 1 and 5 were made in the position of the S.W. Entrance; Cutting 2 in the interior, close to the same entrance; Cutting 3 across the upper fosse on the S.W.; and Cutting 4 on the highest part of the camp, called "Arthur's Castle" (Plan, Plate I).

Cutting 1.

This cutting was made at the top of the S.W. Entrance and just within the interior space; it measured 26ft. from N.W. to S.E. and 12ft. in the opposite direction. Slightly S.W. of this digging the minimum width of the entrance, as measured on the turf, was 14ft. Little was found in the N.E. half of the cutting, and for this reason a patch of ground, measuring 10ft. square, was not excavated deeper than 3ft. below the surface.

The ground appeared to have been previously disturbed in places, for at a depth of 2·8ft. a small coloured earthenware figure (modern) was found at the N.W. end of the cutting. In this position a well defined seam of black earth was met with at 5ft. below the surface, and it was here that many small fragments of pottery of Romano-British type were found, including an ornamented piece, no. 2 (p. 18).

As a few large stones were found apparently *in situ* on the S.W. margin of the cutting, the digging was extended for 5ft. a little way over the brow of the present turf-clad entrance, as shown in the accompanying plan. It soon became evident that we had here to deal with the remains of a stone built entrance into the camp, and dry-stone walling was revealed on

11. The men were as follows:—John Lush (Dorchester, foreman), Ernest Vowles (Meare), R. W. Hunt, L. G. Edmunds and H. Caddey (all of North Cadbury), and Snook (South Cadbury).

either side of the cutting (Fig. 2). On the S.E. side there was a length of 10ft. of mutilated walling, the lower course remaining *in situ* and consisting of blocks of stone from 1·3ft. to 1·75ft. in length. Behind this the stones were smaller and not arranged in any sort of order. On the N.W. side a large

CUTTING I.—PLAN OF UPPER PART OF THE S.W. ENTRANCE IN POSITION SHOWN ON PLAN, PLATE I.

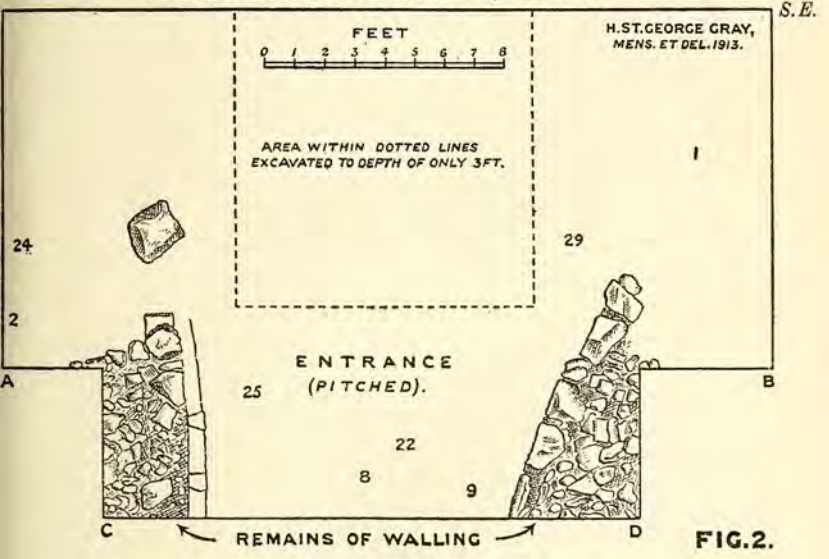


FIG. 2.

boulder, 1·9ft. by 2·1ft., was firstly discovered some little distance to the N.E. of the wall proper, and the rubble-stone forming the core of the wall came nearer to the surface here than on the S.E. side (see sectional diagrams, Fig. 3.) The N.W. wall appeared to have a definite set-off at the base (width 0·7ft.)—a feature which did not obtain on the other side.

The space between the walls was cobbled or pitched, and the stones were set in a material (soft and rotten when found)

which had the appearance of some kind of mortar or "daub."[12] The pitching was reached on the S.W. margin of the cutting at a minimum depth of 3·3ft. below the turf. The plan (Fig. 2), sectional diagrams (Fig. 3), and the photograph (Plate III, B), record these features better than any written description can do. At the N.E. end of the mutilated N.W. wall the entrance-way was 13·5ft. wide; at the S.W. margin of the digging it diminished to 10·2ft. It would be interesting to ascertain what the true width of the walls was, and how the entrance continued in a S.W. direction, but time did not permit of extending the cutting further on this occasion. It will be noticed that the two walls are not symmetrical, and it is possible that the entrance narrows still more towards the S.W.

In Cutting 1, 143 unnumbered fragments of pottery were found (mostly small), as follows:—Above 1ft. deep, 4 fragments; between 1ft. and 2ft., 28; between 2ft. and 3ft., 26; between 3ft. and 5ft., 24; and at an average depth of 5ft. in

12. This material has been examined by Mr. Clement Reid, F.R.S., and by Mr. J. A. Howe, B.Sc. (Curator of the Geological Survey Museum), in conjunction. Mr. Howe says: "Your supposed mortar from Cadbury is certainly an artificial mixture. It consists mainly of fine-grained quartz sand, very even in size of grain; with this is a fair amount of ferruginous oolite grains. There is a good deal of carbonate of lime which with the iron oxide serves to bind the sand together, but there is not more than might easily have come from the oolite grains and the building-stones. If it was originally a limestone mortar then a good deal of the lime has been leached out. I think the main point in favour of the stuff having been a mortar is the extremely small amount of argillaceous matter present. Some of the white specks may represent the original lime of a mortar, but I have seen none large enough to recognise clearly. Without being able to form a definite opinion I rather lean to the idea of a poor, very sandy mortar that has been impoverished of lime."

To these remarks Mr. C. Reid adds: "Is it not a sort of puddle or 'daub,' such as was formerly used for building, but in this case has been used as infilling only—as a sort of mortar—between the stones? I also can see no evidence as to its having been a lime-mortar (burnt lime); and I should rather doubt whether the lime could disappear, leaving only the calcareous oolite grains. If it is a 'daub,' the great advantage of using a mixed and tempered material, such as I take this to be, is that it would not crack and fall out in dry weather, and that it would resist the attacks of mason-bees and wasps. I think that this last is an important consideration, for I have seen daub walls, made of unsuitable mixtures, perfectly riddled by insect borings."

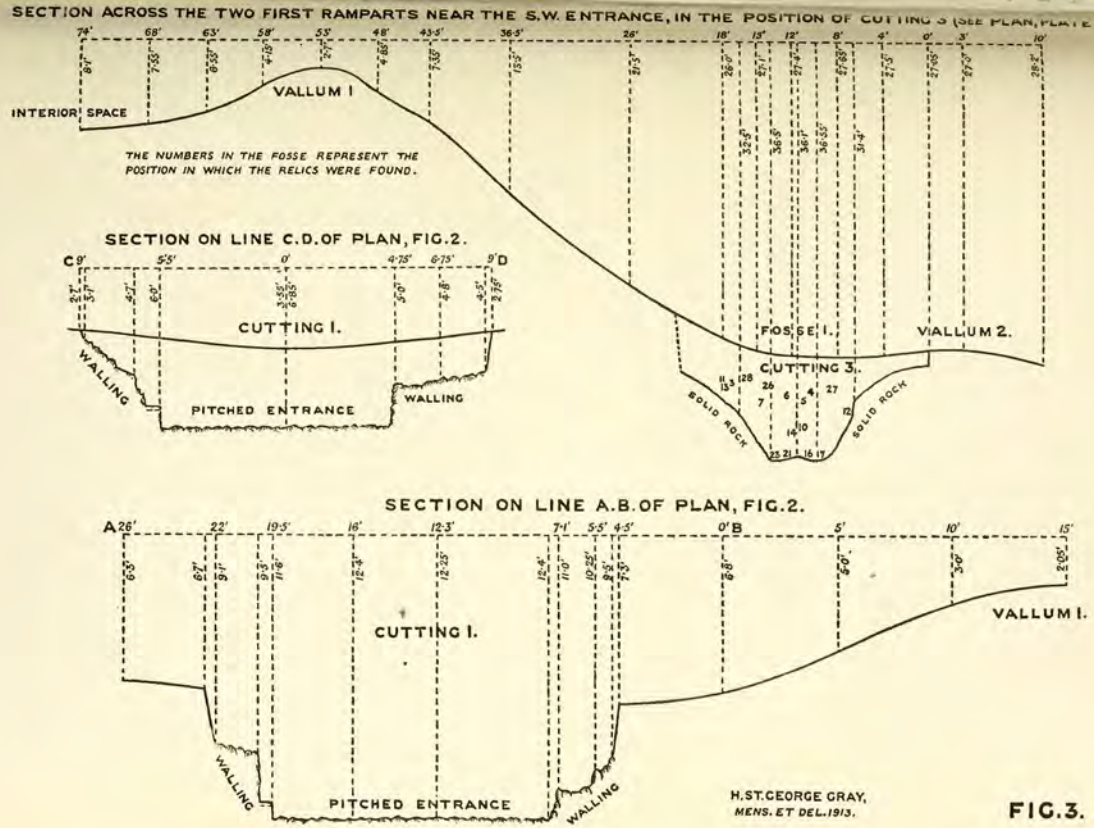

SECTION ACROSS THE TWO FIRST RAMPARTS NEAR THE S.W. ENTRANCE, IN THE POSITION OF CUTTING 3 (SEE PLAN, PLATE 1).
INTERIOR SPACE
VALLUM 1
THE NUMBERS IN THE FOSSE REPRESENT THE POSITION IN WHICH THE RELICS WERE FOUND.
SECTION ON LINE C.D. OF PLAN, FIG. 2.
C
D
CUTTING 1.
WALLING
PITCHED ENTRANCE
WALLING
FOSSE 1.
VIALLUM 2.
CUTTING 3.
SOLID ROCK
SOLID ROCK
SECTION ON LINE A.B. OF PLAN, FIG. 2.
A
B
CUTTING 1.
VALLUM 1.
WALLING
PITCHED ENTRANCE
WALLING
H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, MENS. ET DEL. 1913.

FIG. 3.



A. - Cutting through the Fosse taken from the N.E., showing the rock sides. The stones in the heap formed part of the silting. Levelling-rod, 10ft. long.



B. - The re-excavated Fosse taken from the N.W., showing the accumulated silting. The man stands on the rock bottom.

CUTTING 3, UPPER FOSSE, CADBURY CASTLE, 1913.

From Photographs by Mr. H. St. George Gray.

CUTTING 2.

The position of this narrow cutting, length 50ft., width 5ft., is shown in Plate I. It was trenched to an average depth of 2·3ft., and a max. depth of 2·5ft. at the N.W. end. As in the upper 3ft. of Cutting 1, the ground had been disturbed here, and a modern bed-key or spanner was found at the N.W. end, depth 2·3ft. The ancient pottery was mostly collected from the S.E. end, but nothing of importance was found. In the upper foot, 9 fragments of pottery; between 1ft. and 2ft., 8; and between 2ft. and 2·5ft., 12. These shards were of Romano-British type. Ten flint flakes were also obtained, one small piece of burnt flint, a flint hammer-stone, and fourteen selected pebbles.[13]

CUTTING 3, UPPER FOSSE.

The position of this excavation is clearly indicated on the Plan, Plate I, at a minimum distance of 53ft. S.E. of Cutting 1. The sectional diagram in Fig. 3 not only shows this cutting, but the relative position of the first and second ramparts. It is seen that the crest of Vallum 1 stands 25ft. above the surface of the silting of the fosse, and 24·3ft. above the crest of Vallum 2.[14] Cutting 1 measured 22ft. from N. to S. across the fosse, and 10ft. from E. to W. on the line of the fosse.

When the silting was cleared, it was found that a length of 7ft. of bottom had been exposed, at an average depth of 9ft. below the surface in the middle, but the actual depth, owing to the unevenness of the floor, varied to the extent of nearly 18ins. (See Photographs, Plate IV). The average width of the fosse at bottom was 4·5ft.; the true width at top was not ascertained, as the examination of the upper part of the escarp could not be completed. The escarp presented a fairly smooth convex face of solid rock (angle about 46°). The counter-

13. Only the best formed pebbles were counted and preserved.

14. Before the ditches became silted up it is evident that the crest of each rampart was at least 2 or 3 feet higher.

scarp was less regular, but steeper, as the diagram in Fig. 3 shows. The bottom exposed consisted of four large and smooth blocks of virgin rock resting in its natural bed, and the interstices were filled by a fine silt, which had no doubt gathered when the fosse was originally open to the bottom.

The silting of the fosse consisted of turf and turf-mould, about 1ft.; below that a yellowish-coloured earth and stones,—the latter increasing in size and number as the re-excavation proceeded. At 6ft. most of the silting consisted of blocks of stone from 4ins. to 24ins. in length. Within a few inches of the bottom, a comparatively fine silt was met with, and this had probably been washed and blown in before the fosse became entirely neglected and allowed to fill up from natural causes.

Considering the small area of fosse re-excavated we were fortunate in finding a few relics of interest, but no bronze object of importance was found. The specimens are marked at their relative depth by figures in the sectional diagram, Fig. 3.

In this cutting 52 fragments of pottery (unnumbered) were collected, and for the most part they appeared to be Romano-British, and especially those pieces found between 2ft. and 4ft. Between 1ft. and 2ft., 26 fragments were found; between 2ft. and 3ft., 18; and between 3ft. and 4ft., 8. This digging also produced 13 flint flakes, and 16 pebbles (? sling-stones).

The numbered "finds" were as follows:—

3. Short length of a bronze bar, of quadrangular section, 10mm. by 6mm. Depth 3·5ft.

4. Fragment of coarse black pottery ornamented with rows of small circular indentations rudely worked. It contains a number of rather large grains of quartz, and although probably of the Late-Celtic period it is of Bronze Age *type*. Depth 3ft.

5. Fragment of a pot with smooth surface and without coarse grains in its composition; ornamented with a row of six

indented circles about 3·5mm. in diam. ; of Late-Celtic type. Depth 3·8ft. Figured in Plate V, 5.

6. Greater part of a small child's skeleton. Depth 3·4ft.

7. Part of an eyelet or loop of a pot, of dark brown earthenware ; Late-Celtic or Romano-British. Depth 4·2ft. Figured in Plate V, 7.

10. Small piece of decayed pottery containing large grains in its composition ; period indeterminable. Depth 6·2ft.

11. Iron nail with large flat head. Depth 3·5ft. Figured in Plate V, 11.

12. Fragment of thin brown pottery, faintly ornamented with two parallel lines ; Romano-British (?). Depth 4·5ft.

13. Small piece of human skull, calcined. Depth 4ft.

14. Charcoal—piece of small branch or twig of a fine-grained wood—willow or poplar. Depth 6·5ft.

16. Disc chipped out of a piece of reddish pottery having black surfaces ; the outer one is smooth and burnished like some of the pottery from the Lake-villages ; average diam. 30mm. Of Late-Celtic *facies*. It may have been a spindle-whorl in process of manufacture. Depth 8·3ft., close to the bottom of the fosse. Figured in Plate V, 16.

17. Greater part of the calvarium of a human skull, fully adult ; found in fragments in four superimposed layers. Depth 8·45ft., near the disc, no. 16. This skull is no doubt of the same date as the pottery, nos. 16, 21 and 23. Another piece of human skull was found in filling-in.

21. Fragment of black pottery, probably Late-Celtic. Depth 8·8ft., on the bottom of the fosse.

23. Small piece of black pottery, probably Late-Celtic. Depth 9·3ft., on the bottom of the fosse.

26. Piece of black pottery with a reddish-brown external surface, ornamented with slightly incised oblique lines crossing in opposite directions ; Late-Celtic type. Depth 2·8ft. Figured in Plate V, 26.

27. Small piece of human skull, calcined. Depth 2·6ft.

28. Two pieces of iron slag. Depth 2·6ft. Another piece also came from this cutting.

Cutting 4 (Plate I).

This was a shallow excavation on the highest part of the camp, called "Arthur's Castle," measuring 35ft. by 5ft. Time did not permit of the whole area being examined, but both ends were dug. At the N. end rock was reached at a depth of 1·5ft. below the surface. A larger patch was dug at the S. end; the rock bottom sloped away in a southerly direction from a depth of 1ft. to 2·7ft. below the surface. In this position and to the S. and S.W. it is believed that quarrying has been carried on (p. 9). In so shallow a cutting the relics discovered cannot be regarded as of datable importance.

In the cutting 23 fragments of pottery, all or nearly all of the Romano-British period, were found; also 13 flint flakes and a pebble.

The numbered relics were as follows:—

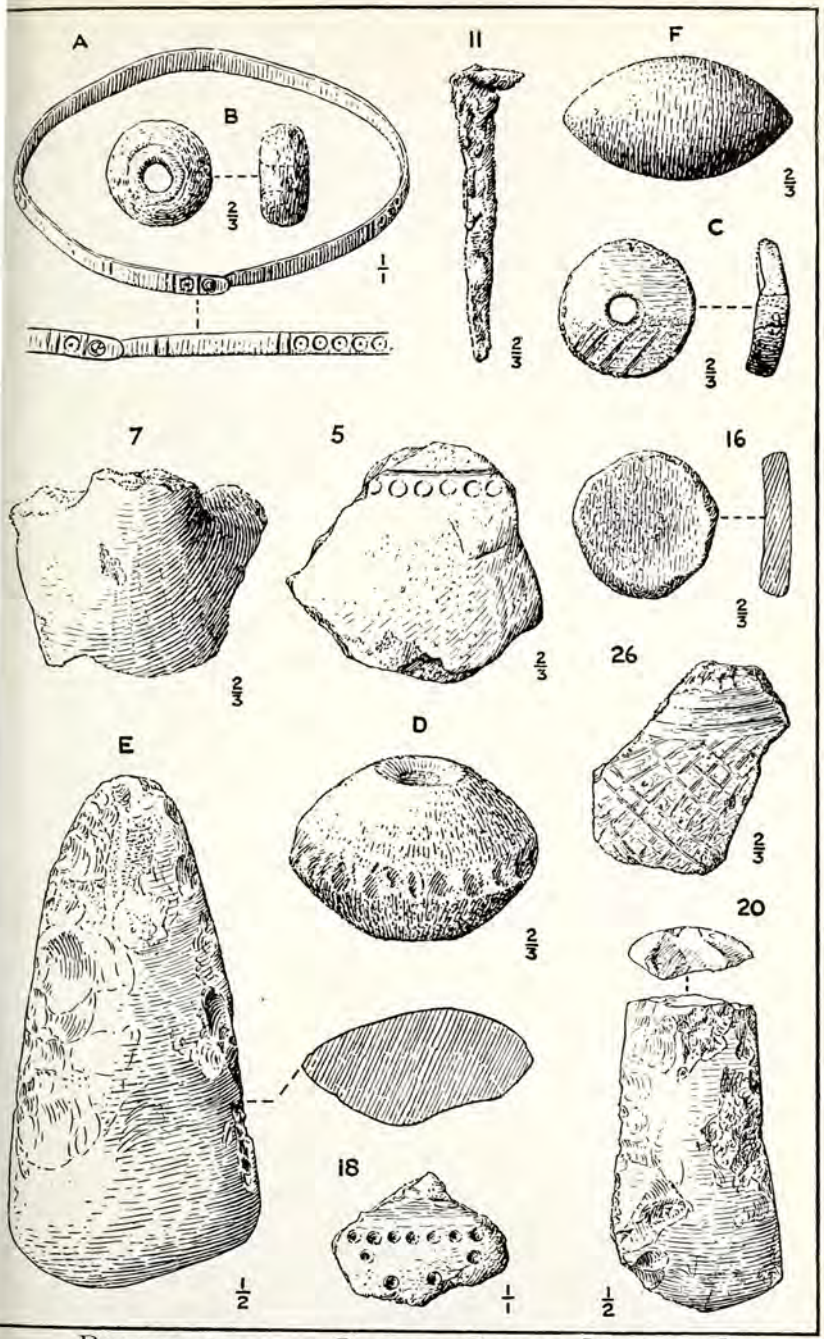
15. Fragment of brown pottery with projecting ridge—part of the rim of a so-called "basin-shaped" vessel (Pitt-Rivers); Romano-British.[15] Depth 0·6ft.

18. Fragment of pottery ornamented with a horizontal line of seven small indented circular dots, and two similar lines arranged triangularly. Depth 1ft. Figured in Plate V, 18.

19. Piece of red Samian pottery (*terra sigillata*), not of the best quality. Depth 1·8ft., at the S. end. Mr. Bennett stated that he found only one fragment of this ware at Camelot (*Proc.*, XXXVI, ii, 12).

20. Chipped and polished flint celt, or axe, length 3⅜ins., the butt-end missing; the remaining part of the bevelled cutting-edge is sharp. The implement has been disfigured by fire and is considerably calcined. Found near no. 19, depth 1·9ft. Figured in Plate V, 20. (The complete flint celt,

15. "Bead" rims were also found in the various cuttings.



RELICS FOUND AT CADBURY CASTLE [CAMELOT], SOUTH SOMERSET.

From Drawings by Mr. E. Sprankling.

previously found at Camelot, is figured in Plate V, and described on p. 13).

CUTTING 5 (Plate I).

This little area, measuring 16ft. by 3ft., was made some distance down the hill across the S.W. Entrance to ascertain if there was any built approach to the camp in this position. No walling or paving was found, but the solid rock was reached at a depth of 4ft. in the middle of the cutting. This "floor" was found to be slightly concave, and on either side there was a rise in the solid rock, especially at the S. end where it was revealed at a depth of only 0·5ft. below the surface.

It would appear, therefore, that the rock had been cut to form a concave track about 12ft. wide.

No pottery was found in the cutting, and only four pebbles (? sling-stones) were obtained.

Camelot has produced conclusive evidence of Late-Celtic and Roman occupation, and flint implements of Neolithic type have been found, which, judging from their provenance (as far as it is known), do not afford the slightest proof that the camp was constructed and occupied in the Stone Age. Vol. II of "The Glastonbury Lake Village" will record the fact that stone celts of Neolithic type were found associated with Late-Celtic remains both at Glastonbury and Meare, and the period of these settlements has been definitely fixed. From Sigwell Camp, close to Camelot, flint arrow-heads and Late-Celtic objects have been obtained (p. 10). It is also a significant fact that no Bronze Age remains have yet been found in the ditch or elsewhere at Cadbury Castle, so far as the writer is aware.

In conclusion we wish to say that these trial-excavations make us eager to learn more about Camelot, and to solve the many interesting problems which this wonderful stronghold

presents. We have the satisfaction of knowing the manner in which the upper fosse was constructed and the amount of silting which has accumulated in it since the camp became neglected and disused; and it is important to be able to record the fact that nothing of earlier date than the Late-Celtic period was found on the bottom. Roman occupation of the camp has also been proved by the presence of Roman pottery, including *terra sigillata*. But the most surprising constructional feature revealed in this digging is the walling and paving at the top of the south-western entrance.

My thanks are due, on behalf of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society, to the subscribers to the Excavation Fund for having made it possible to carry out these trial-excavations, and particularly to the owner, Mr. A. L. Langman, C.M.G., and the Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse for their monetary help.

I am also greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Langman for other assistance, and especially for allowing Cuttings 1 and 3 to remain open, and for having them suitably enclosed by wooden railings.

My thanks are cordially given to the Rev. and Mrs. O. T. B. Croft for entertaining me at South Cadbury Rectory during the explorations, and to Mr. Cyril Croft for the loan of a tent.

Donations to the Excavation Fund.—Mr. A. L. Langman and the Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse, £5 each; Mrs. J. A. Bennett (two donations), £2 1s. 0d.; Lady Francis Cecil and Mr. A. F. Somerville, £1 each; Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie and Dr. A. R. Graham, 10s. each; Mr. W. de C. Prideaux, 7s. 6d.; Dr. Bulleid, 5s.; Messrs. T. H. M. Bailward, C. E. Burnell, A. G. Chater, Wm. Garnett, J B. Paynter and F. Were, 5s. each; and the Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet, Rev. Preb. Hellier, Rev. D. M. Ross, Rev. G. A. Allan, Capt. Pollock, Miss Agnes Phelps, Dr. W. Stewart, Dr. W. M. Tapp, Dr. W. A. Hunt, Mr. E. A. Fry, Mrs. E. A. Fry, Mr. J. H. Hansard, and Mr. G. Sweetman, 2s. 6d. each. Total, £18 16s. 0d.