

Third Day: Excursion.

About 100 ladies and gentlemen started from Ilminster about ten o'clock, and at once proceeded to

Jordans,

the residence of W. Speke, Esq., to inspect the African and Indian curiosities collected by the late Capt. Speke.

MR. BOYD DAWKINS, and MR. SANFORD explained the various objects of interest. On the right hand side of the hall was a huge skull, which must have belonged to an elephant of colossal dimensions. There were a great number of holes in the forehead, some of which were undoubtedly bullet holes. The others Mr. Dawkins said were the result of abscesses. This animal had killed several human beings and was the terror of the country which it inhabited. A prize was offered to the man who succeeded in shooting it, and several attempts were made by the native Indians to destroy it, but without effect. Captain Speke, however, succeeded in killing the monster with a

conical bullet which passed through the skull into the brain. On the opposite side of the hall was the skull of a hippopotamus, which Mr. Dawkins said was about four years of age. At the extreme end of the hall was a crocodile—measuring about eight or nine feet. In a case near it was a magnificent head of a tiger leaning upon its fore paws. This must have been an immense animal, as the paws were fully six inches in width. In the same case were heads of the sheep of the Caucasus, the buffalo, the antelope of the Pyrenees, South African ox, wolf, and bear. A number of horns belonging to various species of deer, and the horns of sheep from the Himalaya mountains, were explained by Mr. Dawkins.

MR. W. AYSHFORD SANFORD said that the Society was very much indebted to the late Captain Speke for the admirable collection of skeletons which he had presented to the Taunton Museum. If sportsmen only knew of what importance those skeletons were to science he was sure that they would bring home a greater number. It was remarkable, considering the number of our colonial possessions, that we possessed such few collections of the bones of wild animals. The collection in the hall was a most valuable one, and of great interest to the osteologist.

With his accustomed liberality, MR. SPEKE entertained the visitors with wine, and cake, &c., after which they resumed the excursion.

The Members having taken their seats, the carriages proceeded to

The Parish Church of Combe St. Nicholas.

MR. FREEMAN said that the tower, with the turret attached to the rood loft, made up a very nice group. There was nothing remarkable in the exterior, with that

exception. Of the interior, Mr. Freeman said that there appeared to be the remains of a Norman pier in the north aisle, which he could not understand. He was informed that the north aisle had been lengthened from the spot where the pier now stood. He did not know when those strange changes were made. The pier appeared to be the remains of a twelfth century church, and a part of an unusually lofty doorway. It appears to have been fixed in that position to have the image of the patron saint put upon it. That pier was the most remarkable object in the Church, which, he acknowledged, he could not understand. Of the rest there was not much to point out. It was an ordinary Perpendicular Church of the district. The rood loft had been cut up in the most barbarous fashion, and stuck about all over the Church. Mr. Freeman then referred to the screen that divided the north and south chapels from the chancel, and which are painted. They had gone out of their way in ornamenting the Church. Instead of carving and gilding, the "restorers" had painted the screens with the colours of the rainbow, surmounted by an imitation of a parapet! The roofs were also extraordinary. He hoped that some of the ratepayers of the parish were present, as he was informed just now that the parishioners insisted upon the restoration of the Church in the manner in which it had been carried out. If that were correct they manifested a strange perverseness—unlike anything in this part of the world. Why they could not produce a good coved roof as formerly, was inexplicable to him. The squints were reversed and commanded the chapel instead of the high altar.

Roman Remains at Wadford.

On arriving at Wadford the Members of the Society found that extensive excavations had been made under

the able direction of J. Brown, Esq., who occupies the land. Very complete and accurate ground plans with full drawings of the tessellated pavements have since been forwarded to the Museum by Mr. Brown, which the Society cannot but regard as a most valuable contribution.

When the Company was assembled the Secretary the REV. W. A. JONES, delivered an address on

Roman Villas in Great Britain

and on some of the details of that on the site of which they were assembled.

He observed in the first place how that the situation of very many of these large residences—far removed from the Military Stations, and the costly and elaborate ornamentations, abundant evidences of which were now before them—afforded clear evidence that the Romans held a quiet and peaceful possession of these districts, and had no fear of being disturbed. The Roman villas already explored by the Society at Pitney, at High Ham, at Coker, and in the neighbourhood of Bath, confirmed this view of the social and political condition of the country during the Roman occupation.

A rapid glance on the details of the ground plan of the building as revealed by the excavations left no doubt that here as elsewhere, ample provision had been made for all the luxurious indulgences which characterized the Romans in the palmy days of the empire. He would not pretend to assign this villa to any definite period during the Roman occupation. There were no inscriptions or dates to guide them, and he was not aware that as yet Archæologists had been able to apply to Roman remains the same sure tests of their respective dates, which their friends Mr. Parker, and Mr. Freeman so successfully applied to more modern

structures. It is possible—and he thought not improbable—that this and other villas might have been occupied by the natives of the district after the departure of the Romans. The crocks of silver coins and other treasures left by them on their departure, would seem to show that the Romans expected to return. But there was no documentary evidence, and the events related to a period of our national history which he feared would always remain a region of doubt and speculation. Most of the remains of these Roman or possibly Romano-British villas, however, supplied the clearest evidence of their having been destroyed by fire, and there is every reason to suppose that this may have been done for the most part by the early ravages of the hordes of Saxon Invaders. While no doubt large portions of the villas were but slightly built, and the walls were for the most part composed of wood-work, which would readily take fire, yet he thought no one could look upon the solid stone foundation walls before them, without coming to the conclusion that they were intended to bear a super-structure of considerable solidity. Mr. Brown says that hundreds of cart-loads of stone have been taken away from the field in his time. And as to the objection made to this theory on the ground of the absence of building materials on the the site of Roman villas, it was quite sufficient to refer to the present state of old Sarum, and the extensive stone-buildings which it is well known had existed on that site.

MR. JONES regretted the absence from the meeting of Mr. Walter, of Stoke, whose knowledge and experience in this subject would have been of great service, and he also read extracts from a notice of Wadford, by Mr. Walter, from the first Volume of the Proceedings of this Society, and a letter on the subject lately received ex-

pressing a hope that the enfranchisement of the tenement where the remains are found might be effected.

On the motion of MR. DICKINSON, the best thanks of the Society were presented to Mr. Brown for the care he had taken of the relics and for the great pains and trouble he had taken in conducting the excavations.

MR. BOYD DAWKINS addressed the meeting on the

Animal Remains found in the Debris.

One of the bones was that of a short horn ox, another was that of a horse, and from finding these bones in almost every site of Roman remains he had come to the conclusion that the Romans were in the habit of eating horses. There were also bones of the red-deer, which ran wild in this country, and of a lamb, and a bone which showed that the inhabitants did not despise pork.

The Members then proceeded to

Chard.

The President and Members of the Society were received most courteously by the Mayor, T. Spicer, Esq.

A large and most valuable collection of objects of Antiquarian interest had been arranged chiefly by Mr. Arthur Hall, for the inspection of the Members.

MR. SPICER read a long and interesting paper, "On the Antiquities of Chard." At the close of this paper

MR. DICKINSON observed that as they were then all assembled together, this would be the most convenient time formally to acknowledge the services of those gentlemen to whom they were so much indebted for the success of the Meeting. Votes of thanks were accordingly passed to the Rev. Wm. Arthur Jones, General Secretary; the Rev. Mr. Gowring, and J. Baker Esq., Local Secretaries; and to Mr. Arthur Hall for arranging the Local Museum.

On the motion of COL. PINNEY the best thanks of the Meeting were presented to R. T. Combe, Esq., for the admirable manner in which he had discharged the duties of President.

The PRESIDENT having acknowledged the vote of thanks, the Members visited

Waterloo House,

in order to inspect an elaborate plastered ceiling. They then entered a store-room occupied by Mr. Coles, iron-monger, which the Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Chard, said was originally the hall of justice. At the end of the room were "The Judgment of Solomon," "Daniel in the Lion's Den," and "The three Men in the Fiery Furnace."

Chard Church

was next visited. MR. FREEMAN said that the first thing that struck him when he saw Chard Parish Church was its great similarity to the Cathedral at Bangor. That was not a very great compliment, as Bangor Cathedral was the poorest in the island. It was a cruciform Church in a certain sense, as there were projections which might by courtesy be called transepts. They were large porches, but they had been most ingeniously blocked up. Although that was in itself a bad alteration, yet the work had been done exceedingly well. The moulding was well copied, and the work so well done that it was rather puzzling at first to decide whether they were porches or transepts. The roof of the Church was somewhat higher than at present. Where they had a high roof they always found a clerestory, but no clerestory if a low roof. There was not a clerestory in that Church. When the galleries were

constructed light was wanted, and they supplied the want of a clerestory, to a certain extent, by putting in those dormer windows. If those windows were in a house they would be greatly admired. Those who had such windows in their houses were very lucky, but those who had them in their churches considered themselves very unlucky. He did not think that there was anything upon which to comment. The whole of the windows, with the exception of those in the transepts, were in the ordinary type of the county. The east window was a very good specimen of the architecture of the period. It would be a good Church if the tower were a little higher.

The REV. MR. THOMPSON asked if Mr. Freeman thought the tower was built contemporaneously with the Church.

MR. FREEMAN replied that he could not see any reason why it should not.

The company then entered the Church, and Mr. Freeman said that the pulpit was in a very awkward place. There was not much to say of the interior. Perhaps in its general effect it was more suggestive of Yeovil Church than any other in the neighbourhood. It resembled Yeovil Church in being of considerable size and in having piers and arches without a clerestory. The tower was by no means so lofty as that at Yeovil. The Church had coved roofs in the nave and chancel, although they had been to a considerable extent mutilated. He stated outside that the roofs were formerly considerably higher than at present. The people who lowered those roofs had some idea of what a roof ought to be—not like their neighbours at Combe St. Nicholas. What they did was to cut off the end of the beams and so preserve the general effect of

the ancient roof. It looked very much as if some weighty body had sat upon the ancient roof and crushed it down. The whole Church was very much of a piece. The arches entering into the chancel from the side transepts were probably not done exactly at the same time. The roof opened from a very fine stone cornice similar to the old one.

The Annual Meeting was then declared closed, and the company dispersed.

REFERENCES TO THE PLAN, &C., OF THE ROMAN
REMAINS AT WADEFORD, COMBE ST. NICHOLAS.

The remains are covered with soil to a depth of from one to three-and-a-half feet.

The walls vary from one to two feet high.

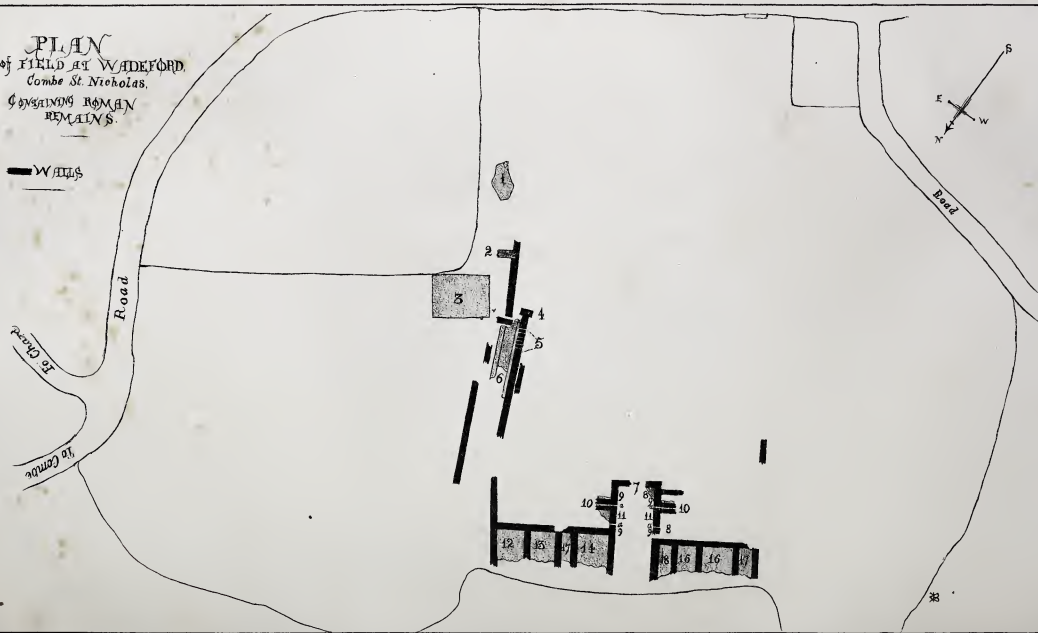
No. 3 is two-and-a-half feet above the level of No. 6.

No.

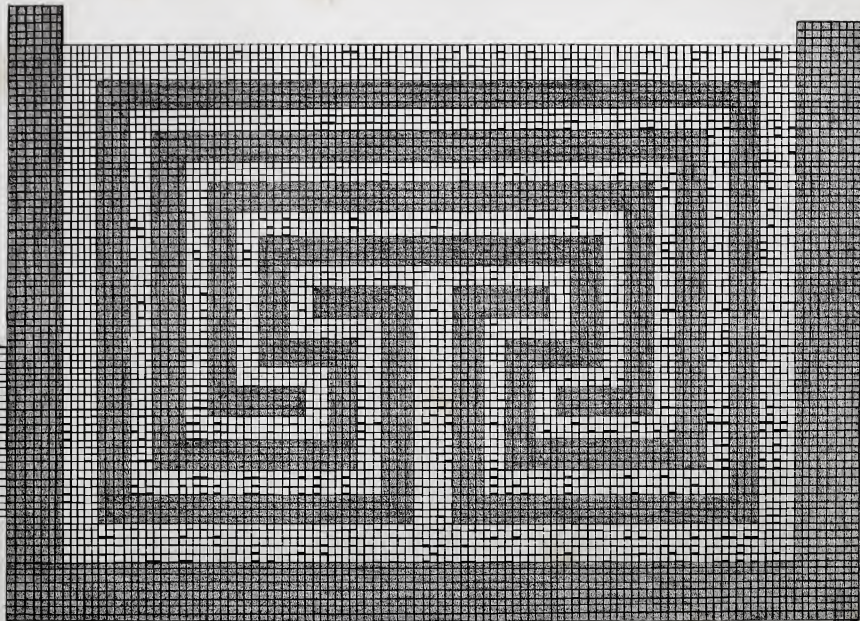
1. Remains of the Hypocaust, discovered in 1861.
2. Portion of very fine tessellated pavement resting on wall.
3. Pavement 24 feet square, formed of red and white coarse tesserae, (imperfect).
4. Block of freestone, with mortice, (removed), placed on wall in line with
5. Flat freestones on wall, (removed).
6. Passage formed of coarse tesserae, in diagonal squares, blue and red, with white border.
7. Entrance with base of column.
- 8, 8. White tesserae.
- 9, 9, 9. Walls of cut freestone, faced at *a, a, a, a*.
- 10, 10. Rough walls subsequently built on tessellated pavement.
- 11, 11. Rough walls between *a, a*, probably built at a later period.
- 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. Rooms with fragments of fine patterns, formed of half inch tesserae, and surrounded by borders of inch tesserae. Drawings of portions of the borders of 12 and 13 are here given. A drawing of No. 14 was published in the first volume of Proceedings, this with all the other portions of fine tesserae, are entirely destroyed.
- 17, 17. White tesserae, probably passages.
18. Coarse tesserae, white, red, and blue, irregular pattern, (perfect).

PLAN
of FIELD at WADEFORD,
Combe St. Nicholas,
NEWBURY ROMAN
REMAINS.

Walls



Nº 3, ON PLAN
 1/2" SIZE

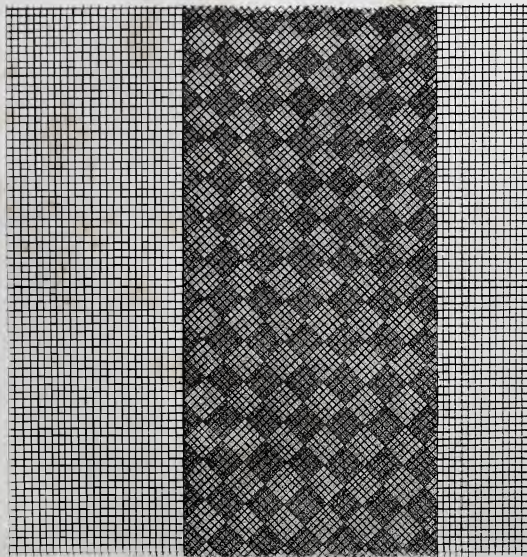


TESSELLATED PAVEMENT, WADEFORD, SOMERSET

W^m Bidgood, lith.

W. Westrup

N^o 6. ON PLAIN



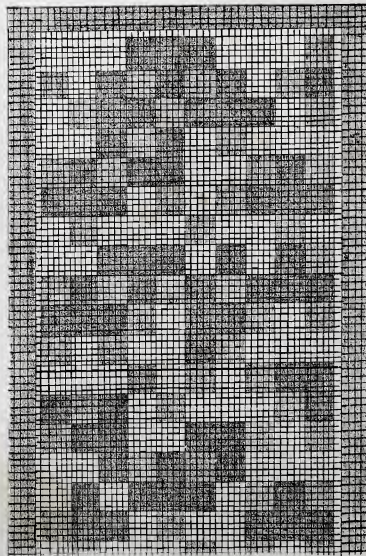
田 WHITE

田 R.D.

田 BLUE

$\frac{1}{32}$ NAT. SIZE

N^o 48. ON PLAIN

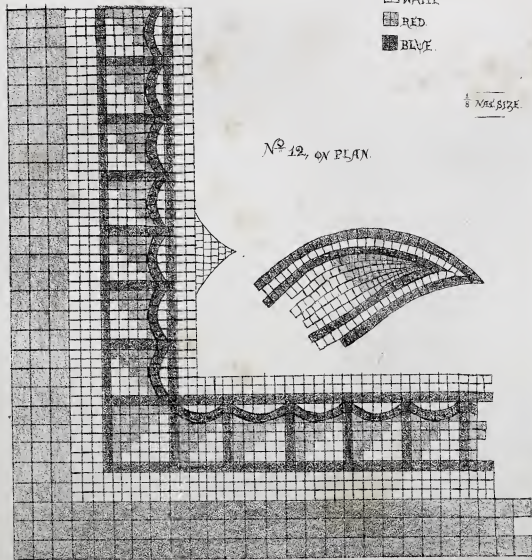


ASSLATED PAVEMENTS, WADEFORD, SOMERSET

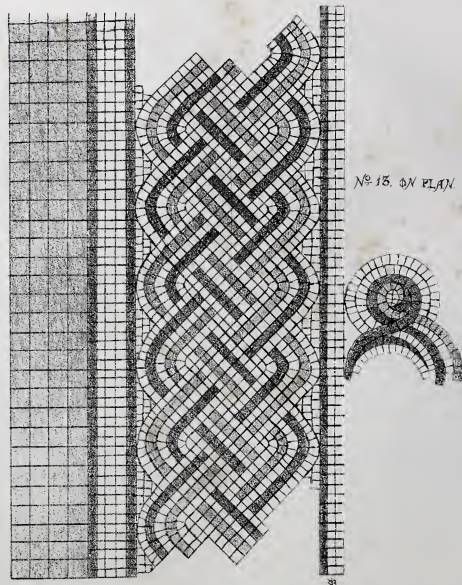


$\frac{1}{8}$ INCH SIZE.

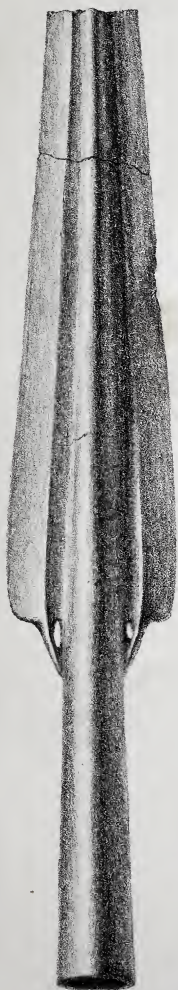
Nº 12, ON PLAN.



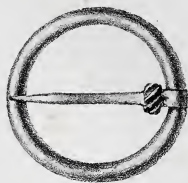
Nº 13, ON PLAN.



REGULATED PAVEMENTS, WADSWORTH, SOMERSET.



BRONZE SPEAR-HEAD.
1/2 SIZE.



BRONZE FIBULA.



IRON ARROW-HEAD.



BRONZE TORQ.

ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT WADKIFORD.