

## Borough Walls.

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*Abstract of description given by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH, of the construction of the Ramparts, with general observations on the methods of forming them.*

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THE Ramparts of the camp on the river Avon, called Borough Walls, have lately been destroyed for the purpose of building villas.

The innermost and highest of the three Ramparts which parted the camp on the western side, is formed of a compact mass of concrete, and when cut through, showed a core of solid lime, and burned wood, banked up on each side with stones, and coated with turf. When the work was examined as the process of removal continued, it was evident that large fires had been kindled at intervals of from 9 to 15 feet apart, and covered with lime-stone which was calcined, and that wood and stones had been burned together in the centre of the wall, while the sides were banked up with stone and earth. This had become solid by the infiltration of rain water, and so formed a solid core.

Mr. Scarth then went on to describe the construction of the Ramparts of the other two camps. That on Clifton Down, as far as could be ascertained at present, appeared to have been similarly constructed to that at Borough Walls. The Rampart of Stokeleigh Camp was quite perfect, and did not shew any appearance of lime having been used in



*Geo. M. Atkinson, del.*

BOWER WALLS CAMP, N<sup>R</sup>. BRISTOL.

*Wm. Eldgood, lith.*

its construction, but no section had been exposed at any time, so as to exhibit the interior of the Rampart.

Having described the situation of these camps, he went on to classify the different modes of construction found in the Ramparts of camps in this Island under six heads.

1. The *simple earthen rampart* formed by casting the earth and stone out of the ditch, so as to form a bank on which a stockade could be placed.

2. That formed of *loose stones, put together without lime.*

3. The *dry walling*, where the stones were laid in regular order. The camp on Whorle Hill, at Weston-super-Mare, exhibited good specimens of this kind of entrenchment.

4. The Rampart where the core was formed of solid concrete, as at Borough Walls.

5. The *vitrified forts* found in Scotland, and in Brittany, where the Rampart is formed of blocks of granite mixed with timber, and coated with clay, and the whole having been covered with heather, and then set on fire, has become a compact mass of vitrified scorium by the fusing of the granite and the hardening of the clay. Examples of this kind of Rampart may be seen at Inverness,—on Dunsinane Hill, Perthshire,—at Howden Moor, near Jedburgh, and other places in Scotland.

6. The *Roman construction* of walls where bonding courses of brick were carried at intervals through the wall, the face of which was of hewn stone, set in regular course, but the interior formed of concrete, consisting of lime, powdered brick, and small stones.

Mr. Scarth inclined to the idea that the camp at Borough Walls was a rude imitation of the Roman mode of constructing their fortified city walls, and probably subsequent to the Roman period.

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