

## Appendix to the paper on Worle Camp,

*In the Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, 1851, p. 64.*

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THE results of my investigations on Worle Hill during the year 1852 have been, to my own mind, highly confirmatory of my original theory:—That the place was destroyed by Ostorius in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, and deserted during the period of the Roman occupation; that the black earth and burnt wood which are usually found a few inches above the solid rock, in most of the hut circles, are the remains of the roofs destroyed at that time; and the burnt corn and other objects found below the layer of black earth, are leavings of the inhabitants of the place at the time of Ostorius's attack; and that the pottery is almost all of British manufacture, some of extreme antiquity, some probably Belgic, the work of the last two or three centuries before the Roman invasion. That at the time of the West Saxon irruption, under Ceawlin, in the year 577, some of the Romanized Britons took refuge within these ramparts, and that the skeletons, and the iron weapons found with them, are to be referred to the desperate hand to hand contest which took place after the Saxons had stormed the defenders of the fortress.

In the month of May I was particularly successful in my discoveries of pottery, of which three vessels, now in the Museum of the Society, have been satisfactorily restored by Drs. Tomkins and Pring. Besides pottery, we found many skeletons, several of them bearing marks of great violence; two very good iron spear-heads; several flint flakes, prepared for arrow-heads; a quantity of bones of animals and water-fowl; corn, more completely burnt at the top than below, shewing that the fire came from above; a piece of the horn of some animal, fashioned apparently into the mouth-piece of a musical instrument, and ornamented with a rude pattern; a piece of burnt wood, with holes drilled through it; iron spikes, similar to the one found piercing one of the skeletons, which were probably the heads of very rude javelins; fragments of bronze and wooden ornaments; three kinds of burnt grain, wheat, barley, and some sort of pulse; and parts of two concentric circles of iron, which were lying one within the other, and had much the appearance of having formed part of a shield.\*

In the autumn, my discoveries were very similar in character to those made in the spring, with the exception of some bones of oxen, which appear to be those of the *Bos-longifrons*, a species which became extinct in these islands at a very early date, though certainly existing here during the British period. One discovery was made, which at first sight seemed to militate against my theory, but which, on closer consideration, I think rather confirms it than otherwise. Having finished the excavation of one hole, we were walking over the hill to another, when a workman struck his pick-axe into the ground by chance, and brought up a small piece of pottery, which I at once

\* Several of these are figured in the Proceedings for 1852, p. 12.

recognised as coarse Roman ware. I of course began to dig upon the spot, and within an area the breadth of which was not more than five or six yards, we found similar fragments of pottery, enough to fill several baskets; upwards of 200 coins of the later empire; a great many glass beads, and fragments of bronze ornaments.

Now had these Roman remains been found at the bottom of one of the holes, or had the pottery been scattered over the whole area of the fortress, as is the case with that of British manufacture, I own my theory would have been much shaken; but they were quite at the surface—so much so, that when the turf was taken up, coins and beads were hanging in the roots of the grass; and the coins were such as there is reason to suppose were in circulation some centuries after the Romans had left the island; and I see no reason for doubting that they were the property of some Romanized Briton, who had sought refuge within the ramparts at the time of Ceawlin's irruption.

But perhaps the most interesting discovery of the year remains to be mentioned. In Mr. Atkins's plan\* of the fort and its outworks, many triangular platforms are marked, which he supposes were used for slingers; and I confess that when he first mentioned them to me, I thought there was a great deal of imagination in his idea; but upon clearing away some of the rubble from the face of the rampart on the west side of the main entrance, I discovered a peculiarity in its construction which certainly confirms Mr. Atkins's opinion in a great degree. Instead of being, as I expected it to prove, a plain battering wall of dry masonry, I find that the whole face of the rampart is composed of a series of platforms, about three

\* Proceedings for 1851, p. 64.

feet in depth, and about four feet above each other, not placed regularly one over the other, but almost like scales, the whole finishing with a parapet, which acts as a breast-work to an internal platform. The outer face of the rampart is of piled masonry, sloping inwards very considerably, so that in fact the very steep side of the natural hill, and that of the artificial rampart, which is not very much steeper, are fortified on nearly the same plan. This would certainly enable the Britons, who were celebrated as slingers, to use their weapons with great effect against an attacking force; the immense number of pebbles well calculated for sling-stones, which have been found immediately within this rampart, were no doubt intended for this mode of defence.

F. WARRE.

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