

greater advantage be erected elsewhere on either of the various sites possessed by the Corporation. Each time the Avon is flooded these would not only prove useless, but would have sewage forced up into them. I have the testimony of a leading medical man & a solicitor to this.

The occasion of all this trouble is the extension of the modern bathing arrangements from 21 baths, &c. to 49.

The property belongs to the Corporation. I mean the Roman remains, &c.

Roman Baths  
Bath

PR Box 1 B1

16, Henrietta Street,  
Bath.

July 27, 1886.

Dear Sir,

You are aware how the remnants of Roman Baths have, for some time, been in peril, partly of destruction, partly of obliteration. I am advised by Sir John Lubbock to apply to you in the matter. Let me now

offer a few particulars. In  
the first place let me ask  
whether the Act for the  
Preservation of Ancient  
Monuments cannot be  
utilized here? I am aware  
it has no legal force in  
compelling the Corporation  
to avert the most wanton,  
most needless destruction  
now actually going on.  
The devastation wrought  
in 1755-6 robbed Bath for  
ever of relics of *Aqua  
Solis*; hence the greater  
need now to preserve  
what is left. Two sections,

as you are doubtless aware,  
are imperilled (a) the Circular  
Bath, already shamefully  
built against; (b) the  
hypocaust, cooling-chamber,  
&c., believed to be absolutely  
unique. I have pleaded  
before our Town Council  
for their preservation. They  
overruled my protest by  
a majority of one only, viz:  
23 against the intelligent-  
minority of 22.

The hypocaust, &c. is to  
be destroyed by the erection of  
six new baths & dressing-  
rooms. These could with

I will gladly furnish  
you with additional  
particulars should you  
desire them.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

(Rev.) Frederick A. H. Union.  
F.S.A.

To

General Pitt Rivers, F.R.S.

P.S. The "Times" of April 28,  
1886, contains a protest embodied  
and by the Society of Antiquaries.

PR Box 1 B1

You are aware how these  
are the largest in England.  
They stand in no one's way.  
The injury going on is  
absolutely unnecessary.

As a Fellow of the  
Society of Antiquaries I  
ventured to acquaint the  
President & Council of  
this. The author of this  
mischief was called upon  
(May 13) at Burlington  
House to explain his  
schemes. He then "publicly"  
"assured the Society that—

"no destruction or concealment of any Roman work already, or to be, discovered should take place". (Extract from the Secretary's letter to me, dated May 14<sup>th</sup>).

Notwithstanding this explicit promise to the City Surveyor, (& architect of the scheme), Major C. F. Davis, has already built upon the Roman masonry, & this modern <sup>work</sup> is fast progressing! The Baths Committee (acting for the

Town Council) have given out that the Earl of Carnarvon will visit the place & arbitrate. His lordship writes to tell me that he can take no part in the matter, being no longer President Soc. Antiq.

Increased rubbish has been heaped upon the hypocant, &c. I am not allowed to examine it now, on the Circular Bath. So as regards others who have protested with me against such vandalism,