

With mi F Haverfield's Compliments

Pl. Box 1/C11

Chester  
THE CHRONICLE, APRIL 18, 1891.



THE RECENT DISCOVERIES IN THE NORTH CITY WALL.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Chester Archaeological and Historic Society was held in the Lecture Room of the Grosvenor Museum, on Wednesday, April the 15th, to hear a report by Mr. F. Haverfield, M.A., F.S.A., on the discovery of inscribed and sculptured Roman stones which have been recently extracted from the north city wall. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by the Ven. Archdeacon Barber. Among the members present were the Rev. S. Cooper Scott, M.A., his Honour Judge Wynne Foulkes, M.A., Dr. Stollerfoth, M.A., and Mrs. Stollerfoth, and Messrs. T. S. Gleadowe, M.A., F. Potts, H. Taylor, F.S.A., G.W. Shrubsole, F.G.S., I. Matthews Jones, F.S.I. (city surveyor), A. Lamont, G.W. Rogerson, W. Spencer, W. Monk, Mrs. McEwen, and others.—The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, observed that he had no need to introduce Mr. Haverfield to the society or testify to his knowledge of archaeology. He believed that the discoveries made were of the very greatest importance, and he trusted that the citizens of Chester would not let pass the opportunity of continuing them.—Mr. HAVERFIELD then delivered his report. He began by thanking the members present for their attendance, and said he would first sketch the progress made in the examination of the north wall, then say something of the value of the results of epigraphic studies in general, and lastly touch upon the invidious but unavoidable "irritant of evil" money. Work had first commenced in the North Wall as a purely tentative examination in November last, and the results of the first few weeks were communicated to the society and to the public generally in December. The great frost then stopped operations till the month of February, but since then work had gone on up to the present time with little interruption. About 100 feet of wall had been opened and thoroughly explored, and it had been found possible to avoid much disturbance of the face of the wall. The results obtained had been very considerable. Parts of the wall had, indeed, yielded little, but they had altogether some twenty-five inscriptions and funeral sculptures and a number of other carved and worked stones, of which the exact use was not so clear. Eight of the twenty-five stones had been exhibited to the society in the winter; ten more were on view that evening, though it had unfortunately been found impossible to exhibit the rest, owing to the size of the stones and the difficulties of moving them. All would, however, be published without delay, and handed over as soon as possible to the Museum authorities, so that they would be permanently open to inspection. The stones were almost exclusively, so far as their purpose was plain, funeral monuments. One inscription mentioning the century of Attius Celer, belonged, however, to the class of "centurial stones" erected by the soldiers who formed the "Corporation workmen" of that day, and built roads, bridges and walls, and even worked on occasion in the State mines. This particular centurial stone probably came from the first Roman wall of Chester. Of the funeral monuments, one brought more closely home the human side of Roman life. It commemorated an optio or sub-centurion, who was expecting his promotion when, "*sufragio perit*," he

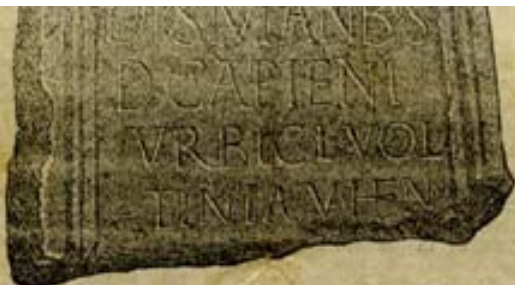
former master, and illustrated the way in which the legionary soldiers often possessed slaves, and the legionary camps were surrounded by the dwellings of campfollowers. The lecturer then proceeded to speak of the general importance of inscriptions. They were, he said, individually, apt to be uninteresting, and often their importance lay in details which had nothing to do with the subject of the inscription. He took an instance from the inscription figured on the appeal for funds by the Chester Archaeological Society—the engraving is repeated at the head of this article—commemorating a soldier Capionus Urbicus. First he pointed to the addition of the tribe name, Voltinia, observing that these tribe names were added very regularly to the description of the dead on tombstones. Hence he inferred that the Roman Government of the Imperial epoch was extremely careful to record and register those who possessed the franchise, and he imagined that citizens probably possessed some sort of passport which they could show when challenged or imprisoned as St. Paul was. Possibly such passports resembled the bronze tablet found near Malpas long ago, and now in the British Museum, which had been given to a discharged soldier in token of his admission to the franchise. Again the inscription of Capionus mentioned the dead man's birthplace, Vienna, now Vienna, in the south of France. A great German scholar had collected many hundred such notices from apparently insignificant tombstones, and had arrived at very striking results, concerning the recruiting and administration of the Roman army, results which were well worth the attention of Englishmen who had to raise in India a Sepoy Army, recruited, like the Roman, from conquered races. Lastly, Mr. Haverfield touched on the question of subscriptions. He had good hopes that enough would be got together to make the work a thorough success, and the subscriptions as yet received were very promising. General Pitt Rivers, the prince of English excavators, had sent ten pounds, the Duke of Westminster had sent twenty pounds. Subscriptions had been also received from Dr. Collingwood Bruce, Dr. Hodgkin, the Head-master of Winchester College; the late Mr. C. Roach Smith, Professor Fellham, Professor Mayor, and many others, and just before he entered the lecture-room Mr. Haverfield had received news that the London Society of Antiquaries had granted ten pounds out of their Research Fund. He hoped the people of Chester would respond to the energetic appeal made to them by the Chester Archaeological Society. Several members had already set an admirable example, and he trusted it would be followed up. He could assure them that there was every hope of future success, for the wall seemed full of remains. The search was facilitated by the need of repairs, the Mayor and Corporation looked on with friendly eye, and the city surveyor was conducting the work. In conclusion he called attention to the plan exhibited by Mr. Jones, and to some admirable photographs produced by Mr. Spencer. The lecture was followed by a short discussion, and the ANCHORSMAN then proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, saying that an opportunity was open to the people of Chester which they must take. They had now the chance of getting for themselves an unique position among the towns of England.—His Honour Judge WYNN Foulkes also warmly commended the under-

A P

I HAD  
some  
Dr. I  
seem  
hold  
first  
Dr. I  
for  
he  
I  
his  
of  
quest  
the  
forwa  
the  
them  
short  
that

THE  
for  
scien  
chem  
accu  
words  
but  
the  
I  
writ  
be  
warn  
if  
not  
and  
of  
oppo  
others  
over  
this  
ultim  
an  
I

spoke  
follow  
he  
the  
and  
do  
which  
fessor  
deton  
a  
water  
can  
nearly  
effect,  
that  
when  
in  
covery  
wise,  
and  
these  
are  
Ebert  
active  
refrac  
is  
have  
habits  
chem  
meth  
fairly  
can  
what  
whom  
have



### THE RECENT DISCOVERIES IN THE NORTH CITY WALL.

A special meeting of the Chester Archaeological and Historic Society was held in the Lecture Room of the Grosvenor Museum, on Wednesday, April the 15th, to hear a report by Mr. F. Haverfield, M.A., F.S.A., on the discovery of inscribed and sculptured Roman stones which have been recently extracted from the north city wall. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by the Ven. Archdeacon Barber. Among the members present were the Rev. S. Cooper Scott, M.A., his Honour Judge Wynne Foulkes, M.A., Dr. Stalterfoth, M.A., and Mrs. Stalterfoth, and Messrs. T. S. Gladstone, M.A., F. Potts, H. Taylor, F.S.A., G.W. Shrubsole, F.G.S., I. Matthews Jones, F.S.I. (city surveyor), A. Lamont, G.W. Rogerson, W. Spencer, W. Monk, Mrs. McEwen, and others.—The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, observed that he had no need to introduce Mr. Haverfield to the society or testify to his knowledge of archaeology. He believed that the discoveries made were of the very greatest importance, and he trusted that the citizens of Chester would not let pass the opportunity of continuing them.—Mr. Haverfield then delivered his report. He began by thanking the members present for their attendance, and said he would first sketch the progress made in the examination of the north wall, then say something of the value of the results of epigraphic studies in general, and lastly touch upon the invidious but unavoidable "irritant of evil," money. Work had first commenced in the North Wall as a purely tentative examination in November last, and the results of the first few weeks were communicated to the society and to the public generally in December. The great frost then stopped operations till the middle of February, but since then work had gone on up to the present time with little interruption. About 100 feet of wall had been opened and thoroughly explored, and it had been found possible to avoid much disturbance of the face of the wall. The results obtained had been very considerable. Parts of the wall had, indeed, yielded little, but they had altogether some twenty-five inscriptions and several sculptures and a number of other carved and worked stones, of which the exact use was not so clear. Eight of the twenty-five stones had been exhibited to the society in the winter; ten more were on view that evening, though it had unfortunately been found impossible to exhibit the rest, owing to the size of the stones and the difficulties of moving them. All would, however, be published without delay, and handed over as soon as possible to the Museum authorities, so that they would be permanently open to inspection. The stones were almost exclusively, so far as their purpose was plain, funeral monuments. One inscription mentioning the century of Attius Celsus, belonged, however, to the class of "centuriation stones" erected by the soldiers who formed the "Corporation workmen" of that day, and built roads, bridges and walls, and even worked on occasion in the State mines. This particular centuriation stone probably came from the first Roman wall of Chester. Of the funeral monuments, one brought more closely home the human side of Roman life. It commemorated an optio or sub-centurion, who was expecting his promotion when, "*senectus perit*," he perished by shipwreck, probably in the estuary of the Dee. It was seldom that an inscription contained, in its dry official record, a tragedy such as this, the germ, perhaps, of a romance for some Chester novelist. Another inscription, tombstone of a certain Cassius Secundus, alluded to the "honorable discharge," "*honesta missio*," by which the soldier released from service obtained a bounty in money or a plot of land on which to settle. This inscription, said Mr. Haverfield, was a good instance of a common type. It was not, as had been asserted, new or important; it had, however, a distinct interest as being typical. Another stone was erected to a freedman, "*Etacostina*," by his

former master, and illustrated the way in which the legionary soldiers often possessed slaves, and the legionary camps were surrounded by the dwellings of campfollowers. The lecturer then proceeded to speak of the general importance of inscriptions. They were, he said, individually, apt to be uninteresting, and often their importance lay in details which had nothing to do with the subject of the inscription. He took an instance from the inscription figured on the appeal for funds by the Chester Archaeological Society—the engraving is repeated at the head of this article—commemorating a soldier *Capionus Urbicus*. First he pointed to the addition of the tribe name, *Voltina*, observing that these tribe names were added very regularly to the description of the dead on tombstones. Hence he inferred that the Roman Government of the Imperial epoch was extremely careful to record and register those who possessed the franchise, and he imagined that citizens probably possessed some sort of passport which they could show when challenged or imprisoned as St. Paul was. Possibly such passports resembled the bronze tablet found near Malpas long ago, and now in the British Museum, which had been given to a discharged soldier in token of his admission to the franchise. Again the inscription of *Capionus* mentioned the dead man's birthplace, *Vienna*, now *Vienna*, in the south of France. A great German scholar had collected many hundred such notices from apparently insignificant tombstones, and had arrived at very striking results, concerning the recruiting and administration of the Roman army, results which were well worth the attention of Englishmen who had to raise in India a Sepoy Army, recruited, like the Roman, from conquered races. Lastly, Mr. Haverfield touched on the question of inscriptions. He had good hopes that enough would be got together to make the work a thorough success, and the subscriptions as yet received were very promising. General Pitt Rivers, the prince of English excavators, had sent ten pounds, the Duke of Westminster had sent twenty pounds. Subscriptions had been also received from Dr. Collingwood Bruce, Dr. Hodgkin, the Head-master of Winchester College, the late Mr. C. Rosch Smith, Professor Fellham, Professor Mayor, and many others, and just before he entered the lecture-room Mr. Haverfield had received news that the London Society of Antiquaries had granted ten pounds out of their Research Fund. He hoped the people of Chester would respond to the energetic appeal made to them by the Chester Archaeological Society. Several members had already set an admirable example, and he trusted it would be followed up. He could assure them that there was every hope of future success, for the wall seemed full of remains. The search was facilitated by the need of repairs, the Mayor and Corporation looked on with friendly eyes, and the city surveyor was conducting the work. In conclusion he called attention to the plan exhibited by Mr. Jones, and to some admirable photographs produced by Mr. Spencer. The lecture was followed by a short discussion, and the Archdeacon then proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, saying that an opportunity was open to the people of Chester which they must take. They had now the chance of getting for themselves an unique position among the towns of England.—His Honour Judge WYNN FOULKES also warmly commended the undertaking, and the meeting then broke up.—We append a list of subscriptions already contributed in Chester itself, trusting that many will follow when the way is so well led:—The Mayor of Chester, £5; J. E. Cornish, £1; Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, £5 5s.; T. S. Gladstone, £10; J. H. Cooke, 10s. 6d.; Rev. F. Gunton, £2 2s.; Rev. Canon Gladstone, £1 1s.; Ven. Archdeacon Barber, £1 1s.; his Honour Judge Wynne Foulkes, £3 3s.; Frederick Potts, £10; H. M. S. Kynnersley, £1 1s.; A. Lamont, £3 3s.; Trevor Perkins, £1 1s.; Rev. C. L. Felton, £1 1s.

### THE ANNUAL ELECTION

J. H. Boffey's Wild Duck. The third and last event was a water race of catch weights over 14

I had some. Dr. I seem hold first Dr. D for t he I h his e of ha questi the forw the r them short that o  
 The for ce scian, chemy occur words but of I writ be suf warn if not and of a oppon others overo this c ultim an ex I as  
 spoke follow be as) the h and o do no which lesser determ a wate can be water, nearly every effect, that I when, in En covery wies, and as these) are a Ebert active refrac is on, have habita chemi metho fairly can h what a wheth so con have rander occas The some t water diagra canes tagian and e chemi we do the fu as w knowl vious out