

PR Box 1 (C5)

Talgarn.

Clantrissant.

16 July 1858

Dear General Pitt-Rivers

You are so acute, & at the same time
so courteous a critic that I am tempted to
write to you upon what you said at
Dorchester that you had thought the Arch^d
Instituted last summer. You quote me as
of opinion that the works were 'Pro-Saxon';
'Leto Belgic.' Looking back to my paper on
the 'Kettle' 'South of the Willishine above'
I see that my words fully justify the sense
you ascribe to them, and, nevertheless, I
did not so intend. I say 'Dorchester
'belongs to later life, and at the earliest to a
'peninsula where the Belgae were no longer
'invaders, but ----- stood at bay -----
'against a more terrible foe than ever the Romans'

The fact is I meant to attribute
the earthworks to the Saxons, at the period
when they were driving back the Belgic
Brentons and settling upon the newly
conquered territories.

It matters very little what I think
in words, but I have always ascribed
the Saxon origin of those mould
mounds, from a time when I was almost
the only person who held so - It is
because I observe that you hold this
view but I trouble you with these
lines.

I am very far from of the
Old Saxon. I wish the Wellington
ditch would clear the men circles
& the postern passage and lay down

the stone once more in turf. The
grain crops on that land, at
present prices, cannot be very
productive.

I remain

Yours

very truly

Geo. F. Clark.

Mr Genl Pitt Rivers.

The Old Cathedral foundations are now
covered up. In a pit they cannot be laid
open & either asphalted or laid out
with brick. This has been done by the
architect of the Old Cathedral at
Abingdon with great success.

I read your sketch of the descent of the people
with no small interest for I remember the story of
Perseus when the chase was disappointed & I
was at school with Beckford - afterwards
I was afterwards at Lord Rivers.

When your book came you on the
point of dispatching some production of my own
which now I hesitate to send, lest it should
appear to place them in the balance with
your quantity. I must however best
type kindly Mr. Beckford & Mr. Rivers.

I remain

Dear General Rivers

Yours truly

Geo. C. Clark

PR Box 1 / 66

Talgarn.

Clantrissant.

26th July 1858

Dear General Rivers

I have just returned from a visit
to Cleve Hall & I find your summons
and very welcome present, for which many
thanks. I have often speculated upon
the mixed Romano and British earthworks,
and felt sure the mud was the unfolded
by liberal & judicious digging, but I never
expected to see Mosaic & Skill combined
as at Rushmore.

The mixed Romano-British period is
one of great interest, of which little is known, &
much, by digging, might be known. I suppose there
was a considerable intermarriage between the
soldiers & camp followers and the natives, as
there was between the Celts & natives in
Ireland, but if or how ever it that the mixed
breed did not take more to the stronger &

more civilized race? How is it to be had, no British
masonry, nothing beyond dry walling - often indeed
excellent work, but quite as often earlier than
the Roman invasion, or, as in West Dorset,
begins its decay. I can understand a mixed
people like the Scandinavians preferring timber, but
the Celts seem never used the sea.

I should like to turn your attention to some
earthworks which I regard as Roman or British;
the latter as the work of the Britons after the departure of
the Legions; such as Wareham, Tisbury,
Wallingford, Cardiff, Hengrave, and Cester.

These earthworks are far larger & the ditches
arranged differently than we commonly see with the Romans,
who found masonry for large work more convenient.
Also no considerable Roman remains are found
within their walls. It is not stated on any great Roman
ways, or habitations has never suffered to the
term 'Cester'

But in plan they are more or less rectangular,
the larger more or less rounded, they are on
low ground, their entrance are often in the middle of

a side, and they are placed upon the banks of
a river, and open on both sides & defended
on both sides, even after the Roman practice.
Moreover, they are placed as for the general
defense of a district. In those cases
they seem to be the work of the Britons after the
departure of the Romans and their attack
upon the Northern Picts and the Coast-lands
Scandinavian pirates from them to defend
themselves.

In each of the above cases the position
is ^{often} occupied by the sea, & a moated mound,
evidence of an earlier, than the
date of the Normans ~~the~~ the
with a shell keep or built an eras
wall on each of the banks or sides of the.

I am afraid your rights of Chase were
entirely to Wareham & that was after the
work are in your possession - but the word, I
think refers to an valley - such as the
British, Saxon, or Norman point of view.