

THE ROMAN CAMP AT CASTLESHAW AND THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE SADDLEWORTH DISTRICT.  
BY SAMUEL ANDREW.

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Extract

TRANSACTIONS OF THE LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

Vol. XVI.— 1898.

MANCHESTER:

RICHARD GILL, TIB LANE, CROSS STREET.

1899.

THERE is no more interesting valley in the kingdom than Castleshaw, its chief interest being its self-contained unwritten history of the British nation. From primitive man in the New Stone Age to the latest engineering work done by the Oldham Corporation this valley has furnished traces on the surface of the ground of every surge of civilisation which has swept over these isles. To get at once to facts we must plant our feet on one of the oldest, if not one of the longest, roads in the kingdom. It is the road by which the ancient Roman army came and went, and what gives it special interest to this Society is the fact that Castleshaw marks the end of the first day's march of the Roman army northwards from Manchester, which city has recently yielded its story of Roman spoils through the efforts of Mr. Charles Roeder, one of our esteemed members.

The Rev. John Watson, formerly rector of Stockport, says: "Castleshaw, in Saddleworth, was doubtless the first day's march of the Romans from Manchester, and Slack the second." He is of opinion that the Romans did well to keep possession of these "castra pro unius diei itinere," or "camps of one day's march," that "they might, as soldiers on their motions, be sure of convenient lodging and other necessaries for the night." These garrisons, he says, seldom consisted of more than a centurion's command.

The Rev. John Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, says: "The little station at Castleshaw is very evident on the present track of the way to Slack. . . . The camp at Castleshaw is seated directly at the foot of Standedge, and within a couple of furlongs from the course of the Roman road. This I have shown before to have been probably a fortress of the Sistonii, but to have extended along the area which rises over the rest of the ground, and is all equally denominated the \* Hustedes,' and all defined by the Castle Hills. But the Roman station on the site seems to have been contracted into a narrower compass and to have been enclosed within the fosse that still appears encircling a rounded eminence near the centre and encompassing about three-quarters of a statute acre. . . . They (these little camps) could be calculated, I think, for two purposes only — that of securing the roads just entering the wild region\* of the hills and the more important one of being the necessary baiting places for the soldiers just mounting the cliffs of the British Alps."\* Thompson Watkin, in his Roman Lancashire, says : " There is an intermediate station at Castleshaw, a little over the Lancashire boundary."

• See Hist. Manchester, pp. 231-3.

The Roman road from Manchester to Castleshaw may even yet be traced for the most part, and, curious to note, there is a Shudehill within a short distance of the terminus at each end. The course of this road has been particularly described by Thomas Percival, whose observations on the Roman colonies and various stations in Cheshire and Lancashire, printed in Philosophical Transactions, have but recently been unearthed. He says: "The Roman road from Mancunium to Eboracum, or York, goes near the top of the Deansgate, in Manchester, and crossing the enclosures on the south-east end of the town appears in an enclosure near Ancoats, then runs through Bradford and crosses the very middle of Newton Heath, Newton Chapel standing on the very ridge of it. Standing at the west end of the chapel you see the trace of it into Bradford Lane. Standing at the east end you see the trace of it go betwixt a house and a barn on the east end of the common. It then runs through the enclosures to Mr. Wagstaffe's house, where it enters a lane, and is visible enough. In about four hundred yards more, being interrupted with a moss, it rises with a prodigious grandeur, and is the finest remain of a Roman road in England that I ever saw. This is at the back of Mr. Jenkinson's house in Failsworth, his land lying on both sides, and is now called Street.

\*' It is visible for half a mile more along a back lane leading to Hollinwood, but on the lane turning to the common it strikes across a meadow of Mr. Whitehead's, and is visible for some small part of it. Tradition directs its course to Glodwick Lows, and some places where it has been found in ploughing shows its course to be so, and near Glodwick it is visible in a meadow for some score of yards pointing over the lows. Tracing it forward it is very visible at the descent of the hill, quite over Mr. James Wild's land (at New Earth). There is a small cob on this hill, by some supposed to have been a fort ; if it was it must have been a very small one, though I rather take it for a tumulus than an exploratory tower. It crosses hence, and is visible in the grounds of John

Mayol, of Wellihole. It then passes through the Rev. Mr. Townson's land, leaving Haigh Chapel a little to the south, and so goes up the hill to Osterlands, on the upper side of the village, making towards the High More, and going along the enclosures on the south edge it comes close to Knothill, in Saddleworth, and along the south of Knot Lane, and so crosses over the present road from Manchester to Huthersfield at Delf, and goes over the fields to Castleshaw. At Castleshaw I was well pleased to find a double Roman camp."\*

Though Thompson Watkin does not quote Mr. Percival's account of the road, he confirms generally, with some additional particulars, the course of this road, and quotes Mr. Just, Mr. Butterworth, and others in support.

Following the road from Hollinwood there have been found confirmatory evidences of the presence of the ancient Romans in these parts, and also, if I mistake not, of the ancient Briton. At Chamber Mill, Hollinwood, there was found in 1887 a hoard of copper coins of the Roman period dating from 135 a.d. to 235 a.d.; most of these coins are now in the possession of Miss Jackson, of Wellington Lodge, Oldham. A Roman patera has also been found in this district by Mr. Howorth, uncle to our esteemed member, Mr. D. F. Howorth, and presented to me by Mr. A. Taylor, of Bury.

• See Philosophical Transactions, vol. xlvii., 1751-2, "Observations on the Roman Colonies and Stations in Cheshire and Lancashire," by Thomas Percival, Esq.; communicated by Hugh, Lord Willoughby of Parham, F.R.S.

Near the course of the road on what was known as the Swineclough estate, now the Oldham Park, there was found, when the playground was being made, a silver penny of the reign of Domitian. This coin is now in the Oldham Free Library and Museum. These are stubborn facts, beyond disproof. But what strikes one as most peculiar is the fact that many relics still remain on the whole course of the road, and on each hand, of the ancient land system of Britain, namely, the open field, and also of other primitive economics in this country.

These primitive economics were no doubt in existence here when the Romans came to this island. Sir Henry Maine thought they were the special heritage of the Aryan race, while Dr. Seebohm has tried to teach us that they could only have arisen from the influences of civilising powers such as the Roman. I fear that both of them were wrong, and, though the subject is too large to be dealt with thoroughly in a paper like this, I hope before having done to give sufficient reasons for differing from them both. One thing is certain, and that is that when the Romans came here they found between Manchester and Castleshaw a sturdy race of people, of whom we find evidence to this day. The importance of this subject cannot be over-rated. It will help to solve one of the greatest questions of modern times in England, namely, \*\*Who is the modern Englishman?" Is he a survival of those grand old races that peopled these isles at first, or was he "made in Germany?" We have spent more blood and treasure in settling this question than in settling all other questions of domestic politics put together. Indeed it has been the Irish question of the Englishman ever since the English were a people, and it can only be solved by studying what the French call the "Science des origines."

But to our evidences of the ancient land system. This system is what is known as the open field. One of its features was common rights of pasture. Beginning with HoUinwood we find in old deeds still in existence mention of common pasture in various places all the way to Castleshaw. For instance, at the common or moor called HoUinwood, at Werneth (modern Welsh \*\*Gwernydd," the open or unploughed field), at Oldham, at Swineclough, at Greenacres, at Lees, at Highmoor, at Woodward Hill, at the two Knot Hills, and on the sides of this valley of Castleshaw.

Another feature of the open field was terrace cultivation. We find traces of this at Glodwick Lows, which still bears the name of Clents; at Leesfield, which still bears the name of Bongs or Banks; at Luzley (or loose-ley), which still bears the name of Ridge Hill, or Ridge Hill Lanes; at Bucton, at Slences, and, at least in name, at Grinacres, Rugging Bunk, Cross Bank, Taylor Green, Shortlands, and Alston Lands, now called Austerlands; while in this Castleshaw valley there still remain portions of the old terraces at a place significantly called Bungs or Bunks. Another feature of the open field was scattered or intermixed ownership. This we find at Leesfield, a plan of the "doles" being still in existence. We also find it, at least in name, in the "doles" at Highmoor and the "doles" near Wharmton, which were common to some village community, which may have had its seat at Grinacres, afterwards known as Grinacres Chartership. As to these doles, it is well we understand something of them. They were deals in the sense of casting lots. In a village community a particular piece of land, which was to be cultivated by a certain member or official, was allotted to him by a process of shaking in the hat. Let no one be shocked at this statement.

A goodly man of the olden time once said: "The lot is fallen to me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage." This system of casting lots was almost universal. In these British Isles it was quite universal. As an example I may quote an instance given by Mr. Gomme in the *Village Community* p. 268: "In the parishes of Congresbury and Puxton (Somersetshire) are two large pieces of common land called East and West Dolemoors, which are divided into single acres (or 'akkers,' as we call them here), each bearing a peculiar and different mark cut in the turf, such as a horn, four oxen and a mare, a pole axe, cross, dung fork, oven, duck's nest, hand-reel, and hare's tail. On the Saturday before Old Midsummer several proprietors of estates in the parishes of Congresbury, Puxton, and Week St. Lawrence or their tenants assembled on the commons.

A number of apples are previously prepared, marked in the same manner with the before-mentioned acres, which are distributed by a young lad to each of the commoners from a bag or hat. At the close of the distribution each person repairs to his allotment as his apple directs him and takes possession for the ensuing year." Sometimes the lot was cast by "drawing cuts" or sticks of different lengths. I find mention of these doles, or dooals, or dales, in many places in Lancashire and the adjoining counties. It is surely interesting to note the recurrence of these doles along the course of the Roman Road, and to trace back their history to a period which is not only archaic, but which brings us back to a period when our ancient people dwelt in clans and tribes, and when the use of metal was not known in these parts. This system of open field, I have good reason to think, is pre-Aryan — recent investigations will, I think, prove this. The book by Mr. Laurence Gomme on the village community throws light on the whole subject, and, though some writers are reticent on the subject, my opinion is that when this is fully proved it will help us to judge what kind of being early man in Britain was, and will confirm much that has been suggested of him by our esteemed member, Professor Boyd Dawkins.

And now I begin with the few traces which have been found in this valley, or near it, of primitive man in Britain. I am not sure that we cannot find traces on the hill tops hereabout of the Paleolithic period. I am not a judge in such matters, but when I tell you that in thirty places, chiefly on the tops of the hills, which can easily be counted on the map, within a small circle from this centre, there have been found flint flakes, knives, saws, scrapers, arrow-heads, &c., it seems likely that we may have had here some Paleolithic dwellers. But in this valley of Castleshaw there have certainly been found the working tools of men of the Neolithic period. Mr. W. Watts, who superintended the making of these Oldham reservoirs, found such implements here, and, I believe, has them still in his possession. They consist of two celts of polished stone, one found on Millstone Edge, and the other in the brookstead now covered by the waterworks. The urns found on Pule are said to have been of the Bronze Age, but I am not sure that the Bronze Age on the Continent was contemporaneous with the Bronze Age of Britain. There have also been found two urns and a stone hammer at Brown Hill, near Saddleworth Station, not far from here, just by the side of the railway. Drawings of these urns and hammer are to be found in vol. iii. *Local Notes and Gleanings of Oldham and Neighbourhood*, by Giles Shaw, F.R.H.S. You have a description of them and how they were found in Canon Raines's MSS. Now I think it is generally ad-

mitted that the Neolithic period was Iberian and pre-Aryan. If so, the working tools of that period found in this valley correspond with the ancient land system which prevailed here, which was also pre-Aryan. When the Romans came to Britain we have it on the best authority that it was many centuries after the Aryan conquest, and that they found the Britons a mixed race of Iberians and Aryans. The Iberians were stone-folk and hillmen, and perhaps cave or lake dwellers. The use of metals was not known to them. The Aryans belonged to a Metallic Age, and as a conquering race were more intelligent\* and had a different shape of skull. Moreover, the Aryan was a Celt, and he imposed his language on the conquered Iberian. Consequently, nearly all place-names and object-names in the district were Celtic, very few Iberian words remaining.

Now the question comes: Is there anything to be found in this Castleshaw valley which may be taken as an evidence of this conquest? My answer is. Yes ! and it is to be found in connection with the ancient land system which prevailed here. We may always take it that conquest among partly-civilised tribes means slavery to the conquered. If it be asked who were the first slaves or serfs in Britain I should answer the Iberians or stone-folk, who were by no means an unintelligent race, as we are told by Professor Boyd Dawkins. They were the first spinners, weavers, and potters, and we have also seen they had a good system of agriculture as things went then. The mark of conquest or slavery which remains in this valley is contained in an ancient deed bearing date 6 Edward VI., which is evidently a recital of a much earlier deed at a period when the land on Friarmere was abbey land, belonging to Rupe, and it relates to the ancient custom of boons or booner, which latter word is probably a shorter form of the word boonwork. These boons take different forms in various parts of this country and indeed on the Continent, but wherever found they are the universal mark of slavery or serfdom, and therefore of conquest, which was the cause of slavery. Along the line of road to this valley we find this boonwork. At Oldham it took the shape of shearing for nothing and payment of heriots at death. In Ashton parish we find it was ploughing, harrowing, carrying, and shearing along with heriots.

In this valley the old patent roll of 6 Edward VI. describes it as the custom called "booner.\*" \* It is not known what this booner was, but in Saddleworth probably it took the shape of a carrying service, as we find mention in one of the old deeds of "avera," which signified beasts of burden. No doubt we shall get more light on the subject some day. Beyond all this, we have a vast array of place-names, most of which can be traced to a British origin. After Hollinwood, wherein was common pasture, we leave on our left "Chamber," which really means "Camber," with a hard C or K. Any Celtic scholar can choose the meaning of it, only remember that we have a splendid find of Roman coins here. We also leave beyond it Werneth, otherwise \*\* Gwernydd," the open or unploughed field. Next we come to Copster Hill. "Cop" I need not define, but "ster" or stur or stour, Flavell Edmunds says, is perhaps from the British "is," and "twr" or "tor" under or at the foot of a hill: that is, a hill at the foot of another hill, which exactly answers the description of Copster Hill. Then we come to Yatefield and Honeyway Lane, not Honeywell Lane; then Swineclough, with open field rights, and a Roman silver coin of the reign of Domitian found in its grounds.

Then we get to Glodwick Lows and Clents. Perhaps Dr. Seebohm can tell us what these clents were. Then we come to \*\* New Yurth." This is the vernacular, not New Earth, as the schoolmasters would say. Then we come down Roe Lane to Wellihole. Hereabouts we have several quaint names, as Sett, Bunk, Bank Top, &c. ; but the quaintest name is Welly Field. If you want to know the meaning of this you must consult Dr. Seebohm, who will tell you that Welly or Wele or Gwely signifies the family couch of a prehistoric period. Pass we on to Mr. Townson's land, through which by Turn Lees, Further Hey, and Nearer Hey came up a length of the said Roman road, recently identified. This road is well defined to-day, where, on the left, higher up, by the brookstead, we find Dowry, otherwise in the Celtic tongue Dwr-y, the place of water; but, says the record, we leave Hey Chapel a little to the south, and then (by Thorpe Lane) we mount the hill towards Austerlands.

Then, leaving on our immediate track on the left hand Dove Cote or water cote, near which a stream of water flowed, and does so to-day, both words being of British origin, we find a very ancient farm still charged with a heriot. Then we come to Birks, called after the sacred Birch, the old name being Three Nooks. Nimble Nook lies on the left hand, a short distance down the Huddersfield Road. Then we enter Quick, the equivalent of the Cornish gA^ic, for the meaning of which see Schrader's Prehistoric Antiquities, and come to Cricketty Lane and Gig, then to Slack Midden, which, in my opinion, is the union of two Roman roads, one road coming from Grotton, another British name, the other from Melandra. Proceeding towards High Moor we come to another \*\* Nook," otherwise British cnwc ; then to Thorpes, which is a frequent place-name ; then past Herd-

slow, ' otherwise Yerths-low, and Doctor Head Greave, and Thurston Clough, to Knarr and Knarr Barn ; past Hill Top and through Knot {cnuot, O.H.G.) Lane, down Shudehill (from the British scwd, pronounced shude, a short or steep narrow road). Crossing the stream at Delph we pass Causeway Sett, and along by the side of Hull Brook we join the Great Way, as it is described in an ancient deed of 1314, which brings us to Castleshaw, where we have two British nooks adjoining the camp, viz., Blake Hey Nook and Marlyerth Nook C'cnwc," signifying a knob or boss of rock).

With regard to the Roman camp at Castleshaw, it is only fair to say that very considerable doubt exists in some people's minds as to whether there is anything here of a Roman character at all. I have heard more than one gentleman say that there is nothing Roman about it, nor any trace of the Romans here, and I am told that only recently a visitor to this place, who is interested in Roman finds elsewhere, pronounced against Castleshaw being a Roman station.

These good people remind me of a certain man of old who is reported to have said: "Nay, Father Abraham, but if one rose from the dead they will repent." I am also reminded of the answer, and I am quite of opinion that if they believe not the united testimony of Percival, Watson, Whitaker, and our own Thompson Watkin, neither would they believe if an old Roman soldier were to rise from the dead. Those who have seen the Roman stations at Melandra and along the Roman wall of Hadrian, however, have given a different opinion. Certainly but few Roman remains have been found in our day at Castleshaw. There have been working near to this place, though not in the camp itself, a great number of navvies, who might easily have turned up the whole ground if they had only been instructed; but I have not heard of any serious attempt being made till within the last twelve months of discovering what lies beneath the surface.

The feeble attempt which has been made by a few local gentlemen recently has certainly been very encouraging, and I trust arrangements may be made for a thorough scientific investigation. For the most part we have to take it on trust from such men as Whitaker of Manchester, the Rev. John Watson, and Thomas Percival, that there is a Roman camp here, and one of the last efforts of Thomas Percival was to put this station into its proper place among other stations, which formed a connection between York and Deva. It is contained in a letter dated Royton, July 8th, 1760, and published in vol. i., page 62, of *Archceologia*. It would seem that at that time the exact position of Cambodunum had not been discovered. He wrote as follows: "Mr. Watson and myself have traced the Roman way in Yorkshire, and find the road goes directly to Kirklees, and this, or rather Clifton, must be the Cambodunum of the ancients. The Roman camp is between Clifton and Kirklees." The camp was afterwards found at Slack. Mr. Percival adds: "By placing the 'ad fines inter Maximam et Flaviam' at Castleshaw in Saddleworth, where there is a camp of large size and many other proofs of a station; this is only transposing it from standing before Mancunium to standing after it in the sixth iter of Richard the Monk, published by Dr. Stukeley ; the whole iter is exact, and the places well ascertained, so that thus corrected it should stand: —

\*\*Eboracum - - - - York.

\*\*Calcaria Tadcaster.

\*\* Cambodunum - - - (Slack) Kirklees or Clifton.

Castleshaw.

"Ad fines inter Maxi- mamet Flaviam "Mancunium - - - - Manchester.

"Condate Kineton.

\*\*Deva Chester."

I am aware that in recent years Richard the Monk has been seriously discredited. Indeed some people doubt if he ever had an existence, but with Mr. Percival's correction the iter which goes under Richard's name is not only possible but probable, and in this district it becomes, to some extent, reconciled with the second iter of Antoninus. Certain it is that the country north of the Thames, east of the Severn, and south of the Humber and Mersey was known as Flavia Caesariensis, and that the country north of the Mersey and Humber to the Wall of Severus was known as Maxima Caesariensis. These two districts were presided over by officers of a rank inferior to the Vicarius at York, known by the name of pro-consul, and the natural division between these two districts would be the watershed of the Mersey. Castleshaw is on that watershed, and is very probably the "ad fines inter," or the limit between Maxima and Flavia.

Edwin Butterworth tells us that the land between the Ribble and the Mersey belonged to the district of Maxima. Certain it is that the ancient earls of Chester, who owned the land after Roger of Poitou, more particularly Randle Blundeville, the Crusader, had the title "Dux Britanniae," and his land would thus extend to Castleshaw. This proves to my mind that Saddleworth, like other parts of the ancient parish of Rochdale, originally belonged to Lancashire, and that it has been stolen from them since the days of Randle. This may have been done by the old cartographers at a time when Saddleworth people were not so alive to their own interests as they are to-day. Possibly it may have arisen out of the dispute between Rupe and Whalley, and Saddleworth would go to that party which pulled the strongest. Certainly the divisions between Lancashire and Yorkshire to-day are merely capricious, and the division in some places is only marked by a fence or even an imaginary line.

We may take it for granted that the original divisions were more substantial, and that the everlasting hills which mark the Pennine Chain were the more business-like and proper divisions of the two counties. This, however, is mere theory, and I do not claim the credit of being the first to advocate it. Mr. Hirst, the late editor of the Oldham Chronicle, was one of the first to advocate this theory and he published his views in Saddleworth Sketches, though it was first mentioned by Whitaker. With regard to the finds at Castleshaw, James Butterworth tells us of an altar, dedicated to Fortune, found here. The description is said to have been: "Fortunae Sacrum Caius Antonius, Modestus Centurii legionis Sextae Victricis Piae Fidelis Votum Solvit lubens Merito." Whitaker claimed that this altar was found at Cambodunum. Most interesting "finds" relating to the native ancient iron industry have been made on the sides of some of the Saddleworth hills. Cinder heaps, or, more properly, slag heaps have been found in several places near Standedge, one under Millstone Edge at a place just on the edge of the higher reservoir recently made by the Oldham Corporation, and one, if not two, have been found near to Diggle.

But perhaps the most interesting find of this nature was made in October, 1897, when some gentlemen were digging at Castleshaw, and struck what must have been formerly a hearth made of burnt clay, in which were found three matrices which had been used for casting iron ingots, which were probably used as a medium of exchange. The hearth must have been once a shapeless mass of clay with a surface of twelve to fifteen square feet. It was clear where the fire had been, and the matrices were so placed that the metal would run into them when in a molten state from the fire. Abundance of charcoal was found on the hearth, and slag was found near it. Schrader, in his Prehistoric Antiquities, page 204, tells us: "In Homer iron is used as a medium of exchange like copper, and is stored in the treasure chambers of the rich. At the funeral games of Patroclus, Achilles offers as a prize a mass of iron merely smelted, not wrought, which will supply the lucky winner with all the iron he will need for five years' time."

The wording of the award converted into English is as follows: \*\*He shall have it (the iron) to use for the course of five circling years. It will not be for want of iron that the herdsmen or ploughmen will go to the town, but he shall have it in store." This is clear proof that an iron currency was known long before the Romans came to Britain, and as the Romans borrowed many of their good points from the Greeks it is not unlikely that they used iron money in the shape of ingots cast like copper.

These ingots at Castleshaw would be about three or three and a half inches long, the smaller ones being about seven-eighths of an inch in diameter in the thickest part at the top, and resembling in form, judging from the shape of the mould, the middle finger of a man's hand, only a little more taper in shape. The larger matrix was about one and a half inches wide at the surface of the hearth, and about three and a half inches deep. I am informed by Mr. A. Nicholson, a member of our Society, that a small ingot of iron was found some years ago in Derbyshire near to an old "working," supposed by some to be British, and that its shape and size would be much like those which were probably turned out from the matrices at Castleshaw. In a paper, entitled \*\* Existing Traces of Mediaeval Iron Working in Cleveland," printed in the Yorkshire Archceological and Topographical Journal, part xxix., 1883, by the Rev. J. C. Atkinson, in a footnote, we are told that \*\*when the farmhouse and premises at Furnace Farm, in Great Fryup, were rebuilt, now a good many years ago, it was stated that in removing a portion of the very large cinder hill there extant, an ingot of iron had been found which was marked or stamped with letters or figures."

Anent the primitive clay hearth found at Castleshaw, used for iron, perhaps the following may be of interest, taken from Professor Roscoe's Treatise on Chemistry, vol ii., part ii., p. 34: "Little is known respecting the methods employed by the ancients in the manufacture of iron. The slight information which we possess has been collected together by Agricola in his work, \*De Veteribus et Novis Metallis.' The apparatus employed was evidently of a primitive kind, and consisted of a small hearth or furnace, to which was attached a bellows." Judging by a matrix taken out of a hearth at Castleshaw the metal used was iron, no trace of copper being found after chemical analysis. Geologists say that iron is abundant in small quantities throughout this district; raddle, or, as it is locally called, "riddle" or "reddle," being an evidence of its presence. This riddle used to be found along most of our brook courses. It was commonly found in the Rocher Valley, and I myself have found it along the course of the Roman road which came up Well Lane from Wellihole to Hey Chapel, but my opinion is that it was used here in far greater quantities than could possibly have been found in this district, and that it was imported from a distance, and possibly was a commodity of barter.

If I am asked what the probable commodity was for which it was taken in barter I should answer our native millstones, many of which, if I mistake not, I have seen along the Roman track as far as Carlisle and beyond to Newcastle. Certainly some of them were of the same texture of rock as is found near Castleshaw, and hence I suppose we have one of the neighbouring hills here called Millstone Edge, but this is only a pious opinion. There is also an ancient Bakestone pit near this place which I am told has a history of some five centuries, but whether the Romans used bakestones or not I am not quite certain. Sir John Evans tells us in his inaugural address to the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society in 1883 that the " use of stone, especially for arrowheads and battle-axes continued through the Bronze Age, and there was no doubt a transitional period at its close when iron was gradually coming into use. For here, as in other countries, bronze was succeeded by the more useful metal iron. From the earliest specimens of iron, and especially from those found at Hallstatt, in Austria, we see that the earlier forms were made in servile imitation of instruments cast in bronze." The iron ingots cast in the matrices found in the hearth at Castleshaw would probably be in imitation of the copper ingots which were at one time the medium of exchange among the Romans, and answered the purpose of money.

Since the above was written the hearth has been bared, but as it was partly broken up with the shovel what is left does not give a fair idea of the dimensions as found at first, which would at least be four feet by three feet, though the shape was irregular.

Under the careful hand of Mr. G. F. Buckley (one of our members), and at his expense, some trenches have been dug, showing the surface of the camp buried in about two feet of soil, distinct traces of pavement have been found, but it is not wise to pronounce yet what these pavements belonged to. The camp ought now to be taken in hand and scientifically treated, when, no doubt, we shall find the hypocaust and the praetorium.

Other Roman finds at Castleshaw are certainly very interesting. Part of an amphora and some potsherds, some of Samian ware, and one or two coins, said to be Roman, along with some broken bricks or tiles, have been turned up; but what is wanted is, that the plan of the camp should be laid bare, same as those of similar camps on Hadrian's Wall. I would suggest that the finds should be kept at "Wood," perhaps the only permanent institution near the place, under the care of a responsible official, and that the public should be admitted to view them under proper regulations.

I trust these suggestions may be approved by our Saddleworth friends, seeing that it would cost them nothing, and the finds would be kept practically on the spot. Our thanks are due to Mr. G. F. Buckley, who has kindly undertaken these excavations, and, I can assure you, has worked at them till he was tired. The total cost has been out of his pocket, but seeing he has succeeded so well I doubt not he feels well requited for his labours.