XV.—*Account of further Excavations at Silchester.* By the Rev. JAMES GERALD JOYCE, B.A., F.S.A., Rector of Stratfieldsaye and Rural Dean.

Read May 9, 1867.

ON May 18, 1865, I had the pleasure of reading to this Society a paper upon certain excavations which have been carried on at Silchester by His Grace the Duke of Wellington.^a Since that date the area uncovered has been considerably extended, and the excavations have attracted a very general interest among those who are skilled in English archæology. In addressing you at present, I only resume the thread of a statement already commenced, and, in order to clear the ground for the information I propose now to bring under your notice, I shall go back to a few leading particulars which were then stated.^b

The excavations, for distinctness and facility of reference, have been numbered under the name of blocks. Three blocks of Roman buildings were exposed at the date of my previous paper, two of them completely and one partially. These blocks of buildings were designated by the order of time in which they had been originally discovered, as Nos. I. II. and III. Nos. I. and III. were fully described, as well as the articles they contained. No. II. had been only partially uncovered, and the portions laid open up to that date had proved in some respects very unsatisfactory; in consequence of this only a cursory description was then supplied, in the hope that a more careful and more extensive search for other portions of the same structure would yield a more fruitful return, and this

^a Archæologia, vol. XL. pp. 403—416.

^b This communication and the next were returned to the Author, who intended to incorporate them together. Owing partly to bad health and his lamented death on June 28, 1878, this intention remained unfulfilled. The Society is indebted to his widow, the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, for preparing them for the press, together with the illustrations in the accompanying plates.

expectation has been amply fulfilled. To complete the description of Block II. will be the principal object of this statement.

In the early part of the year 1866 a fourth block was added to the three formerly excavated, but when compared with the others it has proved much less interesting. I shall dismiss this at once. The walls were traceable, though badly built; the rooms which were uncovered were sufficiently marked, but the floors gone except a few patches here and there, just enough to indicate the original level. The examination of this site, though uninteresting, was however pursued with some care, to the extent of laying open an area of 110 feet in length by 36 feet in width. The rooms opened were five in number, one having contained a small hypocaust; they were at the end of a gallery or corridor 90 feet long. A fragment of very poor mosaic was the only trophy discovered here to reward the search. Of this Block IV. a measured plan was made, but it may well be consigned to oblivion. Since then the excavation described already as Block I. has been filled in and the ground used for agriculture.

The excavation of a fifth and most important block of buildings has been commenced. This differs I believe in some essential points from any Roman edifice known in England, and possesses some points of extreme interest. It is beyond question the Ancient Forum of this curious city. It yet remains, ruined as it is, to this hour a conspicuous and significant memorial of that wonderful people who carried their own order and discipline to the ends of the world. I propose in this paper to complete, I might almost say to supply, the description of Block II. in detail, and to indicate some of the leading characteristics of Block V.

The Roman house which will chiefly occupy us at present is numbered as Block II.; it was discovered on November 7th, 1864, a few days after the first commencement of the works. The discovery was not accidental; the line of a small street, running at right angles with the great North Road, had been previously ascertained by prolonging the direction of the northern wall of the first house opened.

The point of intersection where this minor street cuts the great road across was ascertained, allowance was made for the width of the streets, and a corner house at each side was searched for, and both were found. The one we are now about to examine was the earlier discovered of these two, and, as it ultimately proved, by far the more important; to this therefore the name of Block II. was given, and to the other that of Block III. This latter has been already described in my previous paper, as its excavation was completed a long time before that of its opposite neighbour.

It should be borne in mind that this house stood at angles where two

streets crossed, or rather where a street crossed the main road. It was a mansion of extraordinary size for a Roman house, and it will appear particularly so if we remember that it stood in the heart of a town. Its importance is marked not alone by its dimensions but also by its nearness to the Forum. From the quoign of this mansion at its south-west corner the distance along the great North Road which it faced, to the quoign of the Forum at its north-west corner, was but 355 feet English measure, not quite 120 yards. There is little doubt that it was the great house next to that public edifice, for in this space there could scarcely have been any other private dwelling of equal size and consequence; the great London *Via* passed here between this mansion and the Forum, and in the same space (in this 120 yards) stood also a temple, or, if not a temple, certainly an altar and a precinct to the Hercules of the Segontiaci. This house in fact bore the same relation on the north to the point where the great *Viae* crossed each other that the Forum did on the south. These facts of course give a somewhat unusual interest to Block II., but the interest will be materially enhanced by an accurate acquaintance with the dwelling itself.

The general plan of this house has from time to time been enlarged, but it always remained throughout the same in arrangement. It has a certain resemblance to the houses of Pompeii, though not precisely agreeing with any of them. There is the same central quadrangular space, and the rooms disposed around it. The Pompeian houses have very seldom a *vestibulum* or recessed space between the street and the entrance, nor had this; they however generally had an *atrium* with its *impluvium* in the centre, but this feature (if it had a place at any stage of the existence of this dwelling) certainly cannot be traced now. It does not appear unlikely that the climate influenced the general arrangement of houses in this country; and possibly at Silchester, where houses were on a very lofty elevation of ground, and exposed to winter winds from many quarters, an *atrium* would have invited a greater amount of ventilation in the windows and chambers than would have conduced to either comfort or health. The nearest approach in general arrangement to the house now under consideration will be found perhaps in the celebrated villa of Woodchester. The quadrangle at Woodchester, which had the principal rooms disposed round three of its sides, is not unlike what I am describing.

The principal front of this mansion, thus placed along the great Northern Road 120 yards from the Forum, and hard by the precinct of Hercules, looked almost due west, and measured more than 150 feet in length. Another face looked north and extended along the minor street 108 feet.

To convey a clear idea of how this area was sub-divided will require a frequent reference to the plan. The endeavour to make plain what at first sight appears to be almost an incomprehensible complication of walls, enclosing very small spaces, will develop particulars which are some of the most interesting of those connected with the present excavation, if not with any other Roman excavation yet carried out in England. (Plate XI.) There was a time, about May 1865, when the work here was appearing very unsatisfactory; eight rooms lying close along the streets had then been exposed, the floors seemed to be particularly imperfect, with a solitary exception, in which the pavement, though complete, was of the most ordinary character; the workmen had dug along the walls down to the footings, and even in places several inches below the lowest course of masonry. They declared that no more was to be found here, that the remains had been exhausted, and there was nothing left to uncover. They formed this opinion on the fact that they had reached the lowest level at which the exterior walls were laid, and these walls appeared to leave off. They begged therefore to be allowed to move their tools elsewhere.

At this point in the history of this excavation I carefully examined all the portions of wall exposed, and on June 3rd the Journal of the work contains this entry. Referring to 25th May, 1865, "Examined the floor of the rooms there mentioned, traced along the edge of the walls, and, finding that the flint is there laid to a considerable depth below them, determined to have these small rooms searched more deeply before leaving this work. The result of that search proved within a very few days that there was a series of other walls a little below those we had laid bare, and the event ultimately was no less than the interesting discovery that we had beneath us the very perfect lines not of one but of three other successive houses, all erected on the same site, one above another, age after age."

I shall proceed now to give some idea, as far as the indication of existing remains admit, of the details of the type of house we are considering, and of the successive alterations it went through. I shall ask permission to take one liberty only in my description, and that is to treat each stage of this most interesting mansion as if it might be regarded to be of the date of the coins found in it. I am aware that strictly speaking such a deduction is incapable of proof, because coins may have been in circulation a long time subsequent to their original issue; but in absence of any other guide whatever I venture to assume that a coin may be esteemed sufficient index of a date, to be accepted where it is impossible that any other information can ever be accessible; and we shall thus be able, not

NARROW STREET RUNNING EAST AND WEST 18^{FT} WIDE

GREAT ROAD RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH

C.F. Kell Lith London E.C.

PLAN OF ROMAN HOUSE, BLOCK 2. SILCHESTER.

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merely to connect the house with specific periods of history, but also, by conferring distinctness upon each stage of its construction, to have a clear conception of the building as a whole.

We will now endeavour to recover the traces still left us of the earliest condition of this structure. The date to which the oldest coin found within these walls will bring us is that of the Emperor Claudius, or, in other words, the very commencement of the Roman occupation. In a corner of one of the rooms on the west front the floor was found to be sunken, and on examination also soft. The contents were removed to a depth of about 6 feet. Apparently it had been a dirt-hole of one of the more ancient stages of construction; it contained loose materials, the rotten débris of a building, mortar, flints, wall-plaster, still bearing fresh colours, some fragments of iron, broken bits of ornaments of Kimmeridge clay, and among them a curious knife, and, lastly, a coin struck in honour of the then deceased Antonia, the celebrated sister of Marc Antony, the mother of the noble Germanicus. This coin appeared all but illegible, yet on a careful scrutiny it has been perfectly recognised, and its legend on both sides being well known from other examples may be identified though not read upon the coin itself. I am well aware how speculative it is to seem to attach any weight to evidence so slender as this, but my object, as I have already stated, is not to prove a theory but merely to approximate to a period. It is of little consequence to a ground-plan whether we assume the reign of Claudius, about the year of Christ 50, for the first erection, or that of Domitian, 40 years later, for which we can produce more authority; it will be admitted that such coins prove this residence in its primary condition to be of extremely ancient date. On reference to the plan of what we will call the Claudian period, it is important to state that every wall or portion of wall laid down actually exists, and no part is drawn from imagination; some of these walls have been erased, but their lowest course of flint or stone still remains where it was originally laid; and in places where the wall itself is even up-rooted from its very footing still the rammed gravel which formed the floors indicates, by a difference of colour and density, the lines which the walls followed. It is very curious and interesting also to observe that where later walls intersect these oldest, the courses of masonry are in several instances deflected from the level line and mount in a curve upward and then return again to their level so as to over-ride the erased portions. This is a very singular incidental proof that the erasure of these walls is so remotely ancient as to be long anterior to the days of Diocletian and Maximianus, as the evidence will presently prove beyond doubt.

The plan of this Claudian period includes, as here drawn, such an enlarge-

ment and alteration, which on the same principle for which your indulgence has been asked we may refer with a reasonable probability to the Emperor Commodus. I shall proceed in the first place to describe both the original and altered house, that of the period of Claudius the First and that of Commodus. The walls of the more ancient of these two series are more slender than those of the later, the former being generally only 15 inches thick and the latter 18 to 20 inches. The quadrangle or central space of the Claudian period was on the inside of its own walls 53 feet square. It was surrounded on three sides by the usual gallery or ambulatory, which is 7 ft. 6 in. wide on two of its lengths, and 8 feet on the other; the extreme extent of this gallery from north to south was 70 feet; the two ambulatories on the sides were each 54 feet, and at the end of one there is still remaining the same red pavement in its original position, which marks a little square room that terminated the gallery. It is curious to observe how the division wall was erased to lengthen the ambulatory at the end by taking in this room, but the first pavement still marks the dimensions of the apartment as 8 feet square.

Reference to the plan will now show how curiously symmetrical the arrangement was at first; the mind of the first designer is visible throughout. Taking the quadrangle in the centre to start from, you have on either side of it a rectangle quite regular in plan. The lines of the ambulatory supply the key to the sub-division of the two rectangles; from the rectangular area on the north a space or border of 7 ft. 6 in. wide was struck off all round, and formed on its outer sides, by sub-division, the smaller rooms, whilst its inner became the northern ambulatory. A similar method was taken on the southern side—the dimension used here was 8 feet; a border space, so to speak, 8 feet wide, was struck off round the rectangular area, and was then cut up into minor apartments. It is difficult at present to surmise how the central portion of each of the rectangles were disposed of; it seems probable, however, that in the middle of each of these rectangles there were three principal rooms. The dimensions thus determined, we have a range of small rooms on the outer side of the mansion along its northern face—to these I must call particular attention. This range of rooms is throughout 7 ft. 6 in. wide; two of them were 14 feet long, and two were 11 feet. In one of these rooms has been uncovered a very peculiar hypocaust (Plate XII. No. 1) which demands special notice; it is not exactly like any other with which Roman buildings in England have made us acquainted. I proceed to describe what is left of it. A hot-air chamber was formed here by removing the gravel to a depth of two feet; at the bottom of this a floor of very admirable pink concrete was laid; a dwarf inner wall was then built within this

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SILCHESTER.

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hot-air chamber as high as the floor level, so as to make a hip or shoulder all round to sustain the floor. In this dwarf wall a series of hot-air flues of large size were formed, being so constructed as to lead upward at an angle of 45° to the floor level, and thence to ascend in the thickness of the wall. A large flanged tile formed the inclined bottom of each air duct or chimney. These flues were in number probably ten, of which eight remain complete. The heat was driven in from each end, both the end walls having been perforated for a furnace mouth. What uprights sustained the floor there was no evidence to show; the floor itself consisted of enormous square tiles, the sides of which measured 2 feet and their thickness 4 inches. These tiles were of very great weight and admirably burnt; four, and a portion of a fifth, were left, the others had been taken away. This destruction however appeared rather like the filling-up of a disused portion of the building by later builders than the wreck of actual ruin. The *Journal* states, July 27, 1865, in reference to it: "The contents of the room were soft rubbish, chiefly the *débris* of mortar or plaster off walls; these fragments of wall-plaster exhibit signs of pattern-decorations, and are nearly as hard as the tiles themselves, but beneath the great tiles and on the bottom in places there lay a large deposit of burnt or jet-black oak fibre." The most suggestive fact, however, in reference to this singular hypocaust, is, that, although we discovered, in what had been the original sunk chamber for lighting the furnace on one side, the bed of wood-ashes used in its latest fires, we found at the same time that the builders of probably the third period of the mansion's history had carefully walled up the two furnaces, entirely stopping by a solid wall the places at each end through which the heat had entered, and proving beyond question that the room had been diverted from its original purpose long before the dwelling fell into decay.

The quantity of heat generated by such a room must have been most intense. It has been suggested that it was built for a vapour bath; that the thick tiles may have been excessively heated, and water then sprinkled or poured over to create hot vapour.

It has been at present covered with a shed in the hope of preserving it, and some drain tiles laid outside to drain off the water which rose in it in the winter.

The rooms on the southern side I pass over without remark except to mention that they underwent alteration in the second plan of this earlier construction, which I will point out immediately. What other rooms lay between the line of the ambulatory on the west, and the great street, it would be pure speculation to guess.

To the period of Commodus we will now advance for the next change; the

space of time so passed through may be roughly taken as a hundred years. By reference to the Journal of August 10, 1865, it appears that in clearing the ground on the western side of the original ambulatory the traces of the most ancient floor level were met with; to arrive at them we had already dug to below the footing of a later wall, three courses of which remained. Fifteen inches perpendicular of gravel below the lowest course of this masonry were dug through, and at that depth lay the level bed of concrete upon which the ancient floor had been laid; fifteen inches lower, that is to say, than the bottom of the wall. The tesserae had been swept away, but their marks were everywhere, and in one angle, protected by the remains of a course of masonry, six lines of common red tesserae, each about an inch square, were left in place. Lying here close by this wall, not the erased wall but another and newer one, was a coin of the Emperor Commodus. We may not be wrong therefore in attributing the alteration, in the process of which this coin must have been dropped here by a workman, to the date of 180 to 190 of the Christian era; certainly it could not be earlier, or no coin of Commodus could be there, and at that date the line of the ambulatory on the west was thrown forward, the ancient walls that bounded it on that face were removed, and only the mere traces of them left behind; certain other changes were carried out as the plan will indicate.

The extreme length of the ambulatory I have already given as 70 feet. Its sides were originally shorter by some 15 feet or more. These sides were now lengthened so that it measured each way the same length, 70 feet, upon its outer walls, being three sides of a square. To the same alteration of plan it seems most proper to refer several very important additions; the principal of these are the insertion of a large and well-constructed hypocaust, which remains comparatively perfect, and the introduction of two mosaics of excellent pattern, one of which almost in a perfect state was uncovered, raised, and removed to the hall of Stratfieldsaye House (Plate XIII). I will give the ground for assigning these to this date when they have been identified on the plan. The first step on reaching this is to observe the position of the mosaic on the north side. It will be at once apparent that this mosaic stood in a symmetrical position to the walls of the room where it was laid; it was very nearly if not quite in the middle of that room, and we must therefore conclude that when this mosaic centre-piece was laid down the walls occupied the position they do now; if they had not done so it would not, when we found it, have been central. To make that mosaic room the shape and size it is, it will be clear that the original plan was altered, and a square room, different in dimensions from any of the former apartments in this house, was

ROMAN PAVEMENT, SILCHESTER.

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W. GRIGGS, PHOTO-LITH. LONDON, S. E.

inserted in the eastern end of the north corridor. Now it is the grafting on of this room 16 feet square upon the first arrangement of the plan that makes out the very conditions under which this mosaic was placed. It could not have been placed in such a position in the ancient house under any circumstances. It is quite reasonable to conclude that these two rooms therefore were added to the original structure, and why the addition was not made later will be seen presently. Looking across now to the corresponding rooms on the opposite side we find a very similar change made, though not precisely the same. We find a square room inserted here also, very nearly the same in size, *i.e.* 16 feet, but at the south-east corner. The proof of alteration here is singularly evident. This addition has a floor of red tesserae, now imperfect, but of which a considerable part still remains. Where the wall of Claudian times ran, and still runs beneath this red floor, the level has remained at the same height at which it was first laid, but on each side of this line the ramming below the pavement has subsided in lapse of years, so that the floor has a kind of ridge crossing the room in the line of the ancient wall, still imbedded underneath. The mosaic in the adjoining floor has suffered a good deal from the plough, being only 5 inches below the surface; only two fragments of its end are left.^a The room appears to have been used as a kind of *exhedra* to the large *triclinium* close by, from which it was probably separated by a curtain alone. We have discovered nothing in the progress of our works hitherto which is more curiously worthy of attention than the room to which I am about now to invite your notice. In dimension it may be called 20 feet square; it is however a little less one way. Beneath the floor is a hypocaust (Plate XII. No. 2) of very ingenious construction, and we refer its insertion to this date, because the furnace-chamber of this hypocaust was evidently made at the same time as the square room with the red floor last spoken of. To form this hypocaust ducts or channels, 2 feet in depth, were cut in the figure of a Union Jack, leaving the banks of earth solid between. The sides of the banks were faced with stone or concrete, and the series of flues was arranged, first, in a circle round the centre (each triangular bank having a horizontal flue right through its narrow end, to make a circulation of heat), and then the hot air passed under the floor in embedded tiles to find its way out through eight ascending lines of flues in the walls of the apartment. One pillar in the centre supported the *suspensura*.

The slave who tended the fire must have gone down into the furnace-room on

^a The mosaic patterns are now placed in Stratfieldsaye House.

wooden steps, no trace of any others whether of stone or tiles being there. This hypocaust when first exposed in July 1866 was so complete that if floored over it might have been used again; it was carefully protected through the severe winter by being put under the shelter of a permanent wooden roof, but the water rose to a depth of near 2 feet within its ducts and furnace-room, and has a good deal shaken the ancient work.* These changes of plan are all we can trace to the period of Commodus; those which followed altered not only the plan, but the position with respect to the cardinal points, of a large portion of the house. There are two later alterations, but they will be so evident that they need not detain us longer.

The next condition of this mansion I am disposed to refer to the date of Claudius Gothicus, because a very considerable number of his coins and of those of his predecessor Gallienus have been found, and frequently in positions where they might have been dropped by men at work upon the edifice. In the new arrangement a still further enlargement of the central quadrangle took place; the ambulatory had been already added to once, having been increased from a rectangle of 70 by 55 feet to a square of 70 feet measured on its outside walls. The addition made under Claudius Gothicus increased this dimension again, so that the inner walls of the ambulatory should now measure 70 feet, and this was effected by entirely altering the whole of the range of rooms upon the northern side of the edifice, and very probably those also which were on the west. In doing this the relation of the walls to the cardinal points was changed in all this new work, the ground-plan being as it were slightly canted round at the north-west corner more towards the south-west. It is not obvious why this was done, but the fact itself is very evident, and offers a ready means of distinguishing this work from all that existed previously. Although the ancient rooms of the south side of the house, and the original level of the floors, must have been preserved, it is plain that a very considerable rise of the floor line must have been made in the new parts. The older walls were not erased, but the surface was covered in with gravel and other filling to a depth of 12 or 14 inches. In this stage of the edifice several small ancient rooms were destroyed, and instead we find no less than six large and nearly square rooms disposed along the two sides which faced the public streets. One room, 20 feet square, was at the corner; two others, each 16 feet 6 inches by 20 feet, separated from the corner room by an entry or passage, stood along the line of the narrow street, and faced north; and three larger rooms,

* Since this was penned drain-pipes have been put outside to drain off the water.

18 feet by 21 feet, were ranged along the great road, and faced west; there is an additional space provided in one of these three, and the tile-work base of some construction, which looks rather as if it had been part of the furnace of a tradesman. Such an arrangement as this is an unusual one in Roman houses of the villa type, but it has a parallel in the case of dwellings in cities, as in the *Casa della sonatrice*, and in the *Casa del fauno* at Pompeii, where the latter especially exemplifies it, being a house of the first class, but having four such rooms upon the street front. In the Pompeian houses these rooms were unquestionably shops, let out by the wealthy resident to tradesmen, and although it must remain uncertain that such was the case here, because we have nothing whatever to indicate what sort of occupant filled the rooms, it does not seem at all unlikely that they were employed, or even built, for some such purpose.

These walls were built with mortar. We arrive now at the latest stage, in which walls were constructed merely with flints laid in black mud. This last work is probably of the date of Constantius Chlorus, or perhaps more correctly the close of the reign of Diocletian and Maximianus: there is some slight ground for supposing that this interesting city may have been captured, and that much of it was destroyed and rebuilt about this date; certainly the work is very inferior, and bears indications of haste, although the scale is larger and the walls of greater width. Coins of the above Emperors have been found in the floors and in the broken masonry of the highest levels, as indeed have also those of almost all the later rulers of the imperial city.

The doorways in the rooms of the third building were walled up. Three instances of this are apparent. Plinths were erected in three of the rooms, to form the bases for columns, or possibly, in one instance, for pairs of columns, and in one case a plinth was built directly in front of a former doorway: clearly showing that these plinths were no part of that former plan. The impression which we formed, on first uncovering this portion of the building, was that it was one large hall, 46 feet by 20 feet, leading into an adjoining ante-room 16 feet 6 inches by 20 feet. That impression does not appear to me to have been incorrect, although on sinking lower we arrived underneath at three rooms and an entry, of the date of the third stage: it would seem probable that the outer lines were adopted, and the space enclosed by these four apartments was occupied in the latest form only by two. A broken pillar with mouldings of good character was found in one of these rooms, and subsequently a very debased reproduction of the same pattern of pillar, but barbarous in every feature, was discovered not far off.

It is important to state that in various places where the comparison can be made, it will be found that the lowest course of flint masonry of these last walls stands at about the level of the top of what is left of the other walls which preceded them.

Such is the description of a building of considerable interest and magnitude : rising above the earth in the early days of the building of Calleva, in the time of the first Claudius, stretching eastward in the reigns of Antoninus Pius and Commodus, we find its third alteration contemporary with Gallienus, Victorinus, and Claudius Gothicus, whilst its fourth period—the one nearest the surface—yielded coins of Diocletian, Maximianus, Carausius, Constantine, Theodosius, and Honorius ; and now, fourteen hundred years after its burial, it silently records its consecutive occupation by the Roman from the earliest days of the Christian era to the last days of their waning power in 410. Taking into consideration the position it occupied in relation to the Forum and the Basilica, its great size, the growing importance attached to it throughout three consecutive centuries, and the attention given to its alteration and additions, we may assume it was not unlikely to have been an official residence, and probably was the actual home of one of the *Duumviri* of Silchester.

This is the only building in which any hoard of coins was discovered. In the room to the west of the *triclinium* a number of bronze coins were found on the floor at about 2 ft. 6 in. distant from the wall ; they appear to have been thrust into a hole in the wall of the house, probably in a leathern pouch ; in the falling of the wall they came down with the débris of clay and flint, and were found under roof-tiles and plaster lying in a little heap on the white tesserae, which was stained beneath them a deep bronze colour. The peculiarities of these *folles* were that the greater part of them were the coins of former Emperors, restruck by Carausius. This taken in connection with the finding of a somewhat rare coin struck at Treves, in commemoration of peace between the three Emperors, Diocletian, Maximianus, and Carausius, and some types of coins of his reign not often found, has led to a supposition that this Emperor at one time made his head-quarters at Silchester. These coins, doing duty to the memory of past dominion and the tardily acknowledged power of the successful usurper, are of various dates ; in some the head of Carausius is hardly more apparent than that of Postumus, Gallienus, Maximianus ; in others the legend belongs to Carausius, whilst the head of Postumus still asserts its primary origin ; in many, irrespective of the reverse having at an earlier date carried a legend of different sentiments,

"PAX" is stamped upon the coin. Out of the 42 coins found in this group, 31 bear the impress of Carausius.

Amongst others, one found on the north side of this house appears to have been struck by Carausius, and purposely circulated by him, bearing the head of Maximianus, to publish to his subjects the establishment of peace between the three Emperors. This coin is in the most perfect condition possible, and can hardly have been in circulation at all; it bears in the exergue MLXX.^a Carausius and his successor Allectus appear to have used the London Mint which was probably established about that date, with little or no intermission. A coin of Carausius helmeted has been found in the adjacent house; it is an excellent specimen, and there is also a very beautiful coin with its reverse exactly similar to the "Adventus" of Aurelian, which has beneath the legend "Adventus" a soldier on horseback, and below the horse's foreleg a small bird, whilst a coin, not apparently described in any published list, has on its reverse a Capricorn to left with a trifid tail. A great number of the ordinary types of the coins of Carausius have been found and chronicled in the Journal of the Excavations.

The articles collected in the course of the uncovering of this house are, as one would expect, those in domestic use. The tiles were throughout of remarkable size and thickness. Two of the number possess an interest of their own. The caliga or boot of the Roman soldier has left its print in one of these tiles. The outer edge of the sole was closely studded with large-headed nails, driven in as near each other as the space allowed; the nail-heads were three-eighths by a quarter of an inch in size, and a line of no less than nine nails occurs in the length of three inches: the centre part of the sole appears as if it had been filled up with nails at random.

The other of these tiles is still more interesting as it bears a record of daily life upon it. It has part of an inscription on its surface, not however a name stamped into it, but a word written with great freedom and clearness with some sharp-pointed tool whilst the clay was moist. Some Roman lover was thinking of the maid he worshipped whilst preparing his tiles for the kiln, and with a lover's ardour he scribbled on one of them some sentence about the maiden, more indelible than the passion it expressed, of which the last word, "puellam," alone is left to record to a distant age the Roman's love.

^a Bust radiate to right with cuirass, IMP. C. MAXIMIANVS. P. F. AVG. Reverse, Peace standing to left with olive branch in l. h. and sceptre transverse PAX AVGGG.

INSCRIBED ROMAN TILE, SILCHESTER.

The iron implements discovered in this building consisted of a buckle, some straps and bands of various lengths and sizes, clamps with stud-heads for fastening thick planks for doors, spring bolts of several sizes, with the keys to compress them, and door-hinges. But perhaps the most interesting was a knife, 6 inches long by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, of curious construction, with ring attached, which has been considered to be the knife of the *haruspex*. A coin of Tetricus, with several of the sacrificial implements on it, depicts this knife. This *culter* has probably played its part in influencing the fortunes of the camp, as much as any more formidable weapon. A very large quantity of iron nails of all sizes, some unusually large, were turned up in excavating here; they are indicative of the amount of timber which entered into the construction of the building.

The bronze articles, few in number, were in extremely good preservation, free from corrosion, sharp and well formed as before their long burial. In the deposit which choked the ducts of the largest hypocaust a beautiful bronze ring was found, which combined the double purpose of ornament and use, both fitting the finger and being finished as a key; it must have been the work of an accomplished locksmith; dropped in the *triclinium* it probably was the master-key of the wine cellar in which the noble Roman who inhabited these fine quarters kept his choice Falernian. A perfect bronze stylus, with a point sharp enough for the keenest Latin epigram, was dug out in opening the ambulatory, whilst a bronze needle the size of a small packing-needle, and some pins, with the heads cleanly cut into ornamental facets, belonged to the feminine part of the community; some fibulæ, with springs formed by coils of wire tightly twisted, and with a shield to protect the point, complete the list of bronze implements.

Only fragments of pottery were discovered here; the remains of an elegant bowl, of pseudo-Samian, is marked with an unusual stamp of a nine-petalled rose, and the letters OF CASSEA. The handle of an amphora, reading—

L . IVNI . M

ELISSI . P

adds another example to those mentioned in Mr. Wright's List.^a Common earthenware in a very fragmentary state testified to the habitual breakage of domestic use.

[The excavation of the Forum and Basilica commenced on July 18, 1866, but a full description of it is given in the paper read on June 19, 1873.]

^a See Wright's *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, p. 475.