ROMAN REMAINS AT FILEY.

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A.—*Previous Notices.*

I.—Original paper by W. S. Cortis, M.D., published in the Scarborough Philosophical and Archæological Society's Reports, XXVI. (1858), p. 18 sq.

Full title—"Remarks on the Discovery of Roman and British Remains at Filey, Yorkshire, in October, 1857, with some observations on the Position of Portus Felix and Prætorium." Gives all particulars, with plan of ruins as excavated, drawing of squared stones, now in Filey Gardens, of remains of pottery and inscription on slab of shale,

Cæsar se
Quam spe

II.—Paper by John Phillips, in Yorkshire Philosophical Society's Proceedings, 1858. Very brief; does not mention the inscription.

III.—Whellan's Yorkshire, II. (Beverley, 1859), from Cortis.

IV.—Wright, Intellectual Observer, VIII. (1866), p. 234. Read at Durham Archæological Association Congress. He saw the inscription.

V.—Hübner, Ephemeris Epigraphica, iii., No. 125, p. 143.

VI.—Watkin, Archæological Journal, 31 (1874), p. 349. The two latter follow Wright.

VII.—Cole, Paper on Roman Roads, E.R. East Riding Antiquarian Society's Transactions, Vol. VII. (1899), p. 42, 43.

B.—*Brief History of Find.*

After some heavy rains in the autumn of 1857 a landslip took place on the N. side of the boulder-clay cliffs of Carr Naze, which attracted the attention of a painter at Filey, named

Wilson. From what he saw the circumstance was communicated to the then owner of the land, the Rev. R. Brooke, of Gateforth, near Selby, who decided to make an excavation in the ground above, the result of which was to discover some outer stone walls of an enclosure, 22 feet wide by 50 feet in length. Within this was a stone-wall building, 15 feet by 10 feet internally, with an entrance from the west. Outside this, a few feet to the west, five square stones were discovered, each about 20 inches in height, and measuring about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet square at the base. They were placed in the form of a parallelogram (17 feet by 14 feet), four at the corners and one in the centre. Each contains a mortise at the top, 7 inches square and 3 inches deep, intended doubtless for a wooden pillar or shaft to support a roof.

In addition to these remains of buildings, some 40 late Roman coins were found, quantities of animal bones, and pottery of Roman and Romano-British Age.

C.—*Theory Built on the Find by Dr. Cortis.*

That this is the site of an important Roman station, no less a one indeed than Prætorium, to which a military road ran from the borders of Scotland, as described in the 1st iter of Antonine.

D.—*Derivations of Words to Bolster up the Theory.*

- (a)—The place-name Filey is supposed to be derived from Felix, because Richard of Cirencester, an imaginary character and a myth, speaks of Portus Felix as equivalent to the “eulimenos kolpos” = “well-havened bay” of Ptolemy, and Filey Bay is considered, though erroneously, to answer to the appellation.
- (b)—The “Carr” in Carr Naze is assumed to be the same as Caer (castra, a camp), as in Caerleon and Carlisle, though in place-names it is an anomaly to find two different languages combined.
- (c)—The word “Brigg” is suggested to be a shortened form of Brigantium, and to represent the noble promontory which formed the eastern limits of the Brigantes.

(d)—The word “Spittal” attached to some masonry jutting out from the S. side of the Brigg is playfully derived from hospitium, and the little landing-stage dubbed Roman work in consequence.

Now let it be said at once, that apart from theory and false derivations, the find itself is unique, and therefore of much importance. There is no other known instance of a Roman building on the East Coast of Yorkshire. But why exaggerate? It was not a station, not even a villa. There was no tessellated pavement, no hypocaust. It was simply a block-house, such as one may see on the Roman wall. Mr. F. Haverfield, writing to me in 1890, says of it, “The place was perhaps a sort of hall for accommodating a small garrison.”

Considering the number of roads radiating from Eboracum (York), the seat of Government in Britain in Roman times, to the coast, it is somewhat remarkable that no trace of a building, other than this, has ever been found. The Romans, during their occupancy of Yorkshire for several centuries, must, one would imagine, often have had resort to the coast, either for pleasure or profit, as people do now, and not only have had houses to go to, but also landing places for troops or commerce, and guard-houses to protect them against incursions of freebooters, with probably a coast-road to connect the various stations. How is it then that only one single outpost has been discovered, namely, that at Carr Naze?

The answer is not far to seek. The denudation of the boulder-clay cliffs throughout Holderness, and in all the bays northwards, charged with the same material, has been so rapid, amounting on an average to two yards or more a year, that a strip of nearly two miles of land has been removed from the coast line since Roman times. All has disappeared beneath the sea, even Prætorium itself, if it ever existed on the sea coast.

The crux is to find Prætorium. The problem has exercised the minds of many antiquaries and inquirers after truth for many generations. Like the site of the battle of Brunanburg it is still unsolved, and will probably remain so. If it could be, we should be able to determine the road which led to it, and the

site of Delgovitia, which at present is an unknown quantity. All that we know from the 1st iter of Antonine is that a road from the borders of Scotland passed southwards through Catterick and Aldborough to York, and was then continued to Derwentio (vii., m.p.m.), Delgovitia (xiii., m.p.m.), and Prætorium (xxii., m.p.m.). The letters m.p.m. mean "millia plus minus," as Dr. Raven has proved to me. The distances given are therefore only approximate.

By universal consensus Derwentio is identified with the modern Stamford Bridge on the Derwent, but whether, after that, the road passed (*a*) south to Brough on the Humber, across Barnby Moor, or (*b*) east to Bridlington through Fimber, or (*c*) north to Malton by Gally Gap and Mook Street, and so (1) by Settrington High Street and the Dale towns to Bridlington, or (2) at the foot of the Wolds, by Sherburn and Flotmanby Street to Filey, it is impossible to say. *Quot homines tot sententiæ.*

My own opinion is, after years of thought and study, and with a perfect knowledge of the ground, that the road, a military way, I presume, after passing so great a distance in a southerly direction, would be unlikely to diverge to the north or east, but would continue in its southerly course across the Humber to the important colony of Lincoln, where it would form a junction with the Fosse way from Devon, and the Ermine Street from Colchester.

As an alternative I infinitely prefer the road by Garrowby Street and Fimber to Bridlington Bay, the safest roadstead for ships of the period and the nearest point from York.

I come now to the derivations :—

Filey from Felix is manifestly "absurd" (Haverfield).

Carr Naze. Naze or Næs is pure Norse, and one of the most common place-names in Norway. Carr may be a personal name. It occurs in the *Laudná ma-bók* of Iceland, and is widely spread in the Danish districts of Yorkshire, or, more probably, it may be taken from the numerous "carrs" which are found in the Vale of Pickering to the west of Filey. Icelandic, *kjarr*=brushwood.

Brigg. Another purely Norse word. Icelandic, brygga= a pier, landing stage. It is so used to-day in the harbour of Bergen.

Spittal. I cannot account for this word as applied to the projecting masonry, only uncovered at very low tide, unless it is a form of spit=a spear or lance, Dan., spyd, meaning here something which sticks out.

Anyhow the names Carr Naze and the Brigg point to Norse occupancy, and not to Roman.

Finally as to the inscription, "Cæsar se quam spe," Mr. Haverfield remarks, "The genuineness of the inscription may be doubted. I am inclined to think it forged. Certainly nothing can be guessed as to the sense of it from the letters now upon it."