

XV. *The Course of the Erming-street through Northamptonshire; with an Account of a Roman Burying-Place by the Side of it, in the Parish of Barnack.*  
By Charles Frederick, Esq.

Read March 11, 1735-6.

THE great Roman road called the Erming-street, which stretches itself from London into the North of England, having gone through Huntingdonshire, crossed the river Nen, and passed Caster (the Durobrivæ of Antoninus), from thence pushes directly to Stamford, about five miles distant from Caster.

IN something more than half-way betwixt these two towns, it passes through the parish of Barnack in Northamptonshire, where the ground on each side of the road has been opened a large space to dig for stone; and these pits, from a small hamlet in this parish, are called Southrope pits.

IN those of the west side of the road many Roman coins, and other antiquities have been found. Mr. Lethieullier (to whom Mr. Pain in 1733 presented several coins, and an urn, dug out of those pits some time before) and myself, carefully searched the pits, causing a great deal of ground to be opened; and observed a vast quantity of cinders, burnt bones, wood, fragments of glass lachrymatories, or urns, paterae, fibulae, &c.

FROM these remains it is evident, that this was a considerable burying-place during the government of the Romans in this island; and that this was not the sepulchre of any one family, or party of men, slain at one time near this place, is evident from the vast quantity of cinders and fragments of urns found there; and still more so, from the coins of such different ages, as those of Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Claudius Gothicus, Tetricus, Magnentius, and Constantinus Magnus, which affords reasons to believe it continued for a long time a public burying-place.

THAT it was a custom of the Romans to bury their dead without their towns or cities, and most usually by the sides of their highways, is a fact known to every one who is the least conversant

in their antiquities; but the distance of this burying-place from any known Roman station seems indeed a little extraordinary, it being at least three miles from Durobrivæ, which is generally thought to have been at or near the present village called Caister, and more from Brig-Casterton, where some have placed Caufennis, though others carry that station to a still greater distance.

AFTER passing these pits, the Erming-street enters a small paddock belonging to Thomas Noel, Esq; at Walcote, and runs just within the wall; and, upon its leaving the paddock, enters a large common field, where it takes a remarkable circular sweep, merely to comply with a natural ridge of the ground which runs in that form, though the ground on either side is equally dry: It makes here, for about half a mile, a delightful walk covered with turf, and is called the Forty-foot-way.

FROM thence it enters Lord Exeter's Park, at Burleigh, and through that, going down to St. Martin's, crosses the Welland, and there enters Lincolnshire.

XVI. *A Letter to the Rev. Mr. Norris, from Mr. Thomas Percival, of Royton, on the Course of the Roman Roads from Manchester, &c.*

Read November 20, 1760.

REVEREND SIR,

I HAVE traced the Roman roads from Manchester with the utmost care, and find that the Condate of the Romans was Kinderton in Cheshire. The road is visible almost all the way; as is likewise the camp at Kinderton, where the Dane and Weaver join. There is a Roman way from thence to Chester, another to Chesterton, near Newcastle Under-line, and another by Nantwich and Whitchurch to Wroxeter.

MR. Watson and myself have traced the Roman way from Manchester into Yorkshire, and find the road goes directly to Kirklees; and this, or rather Clifton, must be the Cambodunum  
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