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a walk  
through

Southampton



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*WALK*

THROUGH

*SOUTHAMPTON.*



By Sir HENRY C. ENGLEFIELD, BART.

F. R. S. AND F. A. S.



SECOND EDITION,  
*CONSIDERABLY AUGMENTED:*

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

*ROMAN STATION, CLAUSENTUM.*



Southampton,

PRINTED AND SOLD BY BAKER AND FLETCHER:

SOLD ALSO IN LONDON BY J. STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY,

AND BY T. OSTELL, AVE-MARIA-LANE.

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## TO THE READER.

It was at first intended in the following pages, merely to give an account of several curious remains of antiquity existing in the town of Southampton, and which had either been totally unnoticed, or very slightly mentioned, in the descriptions of that place, hitherto published; and the title of *A Walk* was chosen as expressive of what was intended to be done in the work. In compliance with the wishes of some who saw the manuscript, and to whose observations and communications no small portion of whatever merit it may possess, is due,—I have stepped beyond the strict limits of description, and have ventured to enter a little into the wide and doubtful field of antiquarian research: but I still hope that my readers will bear in mind the title of the book, and not for a moment suppose that I aspire at

the dignity of a historian of the place; a task for which neither my researches nor abilities have by any means qualified me. The praise of accuracy is all to which I lay any claim, and I shall be very happy if what is here given to the public excites some person better qualified for the task, to extract from the records of the town, and those of the bishoprick, the curious and copious information which they certainly contain.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the Town my best thanks are due, for the liberal manner in which they permitted me to inspect their regalia and archives; and I should do violence to my own feelings, if I passed unnoticed the assistance which I have received from an anonymous correspondent, whose singular modesty has not perhaps totally concealed him from my knowledge, and to whose accurate pen the investigators of the beautiful environs of the town of Southampton are, I suspect, already obliged for one of the best digested and most instructive of those useful tracts commonly known under the name of Guides.

H. C. ENGLEFIELD.

DEC. 1, 1801.

**ADVERTISEMENT.**

**TO THE**

**SECOND EDITION.**



**THE** first edition of this work having been exhausted within little more than three years from its publication, I cannot better testify the sense I entertain of a favour so unexpected, than by endeavouring to render the second impression in some degree more worthy of the public attention. The few changes which have taken place in the town are noticed; and I thought it better to mention them in the form of notes, than to alter the original account. A more extensive description of the curious edifice in Porters'-lane is added, from

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the account of it presented to the Society of Antiquaries; and I have given some etchings of its principal parts. The account of remains of antiquity discovered at Bittern, in consequence of the building the bridge and forming the road there, is reprinted from my paper inserted in the second volume of the Hampshire Repository, with some additions. It is hoped that this second edition may meet the same favour which was experienced by the first.

H. C. ENGLEFIELD.

OCT. 1, 1805.

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BEFORE we enter on a description of the beautiful and ancient town of Southampton, it may not be improper to say a few words on the derivation of its name, on which antiquarians are by no means agreed: some having supposed that it took its origin from the river An or Anton, near whose southern extremity it stands; while others have merely deduced it from the word Ham (a home or place of residence), which so often enters into the composition of the names of our towns, sometimes with and sometimes without

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the adjunct of Ton. Ham in Surry, and Hampton in Middlesex and Herefordshire, Northampton, and near it Southam, are sufficient examples of this mode of composition; and it is rather curious that the two last quoted names should in this place be exactly inverted in Southampton and Northam. How long Northam has borne its present name, I have no means of investigating; but it seems evident that it can only have received it from its situation with respect to Southampton. Yet probable as this really appears, I cannot help inclining to the sentiment of those who derive its more honourable appellation from the beautiful stream which ornaments the central parts of the county, and indisputably gives its name not only to numerous places in its course, but to the county itself. The town of Andover, the village of Abbot's-An, the farm of Northanton and hamlet of Southanton, both near Overton, and not far from the eastern source of the river *Anton*, or rather *Ant*, are abundant proofs of the probability of this etymology: and it may be said, that, by a very natural confusion of two words so similar (particularly in composition) as An and Ham, Northam, from its position with respect to

Southampton, may easily have received its name, under the idea that Southampton was formed from Ham, not An.

Whether the Antona of Tacitus was the Southampton water, has been the subject of controversy into which it is unnecessary here to enter; it is enough for our present purpose, that the Roman Claufentum is evidently formed from the An or Ant, which I conceive to have been the British name of this river and estuary. To this, the Romans, as was their usual practice, added the Latin termination, and the Roman name of the river became the Entum or Antum; and possibly, by an easy change, the Antona.

When in the Saxon times Southampton became a place of consequence, the Ant again gave name to the new town, with the Saxon addition of *tun* or *ton*, and we accordingly find Antun or Hantun to have been the early name of the place; as *Wilton*, in the next county, was formed from the river Will or Willy: and this I conceive to be much more consonant to the Saxon mode of formation of names, than the supposition that the town was called *Anton* from the river *Anton*, without any adjunct, of which, I believe, there is scarce an example.

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But although the consequence of Clausentum evidently declined as the new Hantun increased, yet it was by no means deserted; for there are large remains yet existing of a magnificent Saxon or Norman fortress or castellated mansion, built on the ancient Roman wall of Bittern: and as the new town is situated directly south of the old one, it was natural that it should be distinguished from it by the prefix of *South*. Thus it appears to me that the name of Southampton was gradually formed: but these ideas are given (as most etymologies must be) rather as matters of conjecture than certainty. By a sort of retrograde corruption not uncommon, the river came, from the town seated on its bank, to be called in later times the Hampton River; and the county itself Hantunscyre, as well as its more proper appellation of Hantescyre; and afterwards, by a most preposterous confusion (probably suggested by the similarity of the name to Northamptonshire), the County was called the County of Southampton. When this last corruption was introduced, I cannot decide; but it is very ancient.

Too much has been perhaps already said on this subject, for a book which pretends to



no. deep research; too little certainly for a formal dissertation on the ancient history of the place: to more laborious inquirers the etymology of *Bittern* and the history of the successive changes of that very ancient place are left: and it is probable that the records of the see of Winchester may furnish much curious matter on this subject, as Bittern has ever been, and still remains, a capital manor and seat of courts holden by the officers of that bishoprick.

The town of Southampton is situated on the extreme point of the high gravelly bank which separates the course of the Itchen river from the estuary of the Test, or Anton Water. By this happy choice, the whole town, though almost surrounded with water, enjoys the advantage of the driest situation; and the fall of level, in every direction, keeps the streets constantly free from damp and filth. Besides these essential benefits, a great proportion of the houses enjoys a view more or less extensive of the beautiful country adjacent; and as the gravelly soil lies on a bed of clay, numerous wells afford a copious supply of water fit for

most domestic purposes, if not always excellent for drinking.\*

As, however, the principal object of this essay is to point out the objects of antiquity, or other remarkable buildings, which may attract the notice of a stranger, enough has been said on the general situation of the town; and we shall now proceed to a survey, first of the walls and gates, and secondly of the streets, together with the churches and other buildings observable in them.

The principal and indeed only approach to the town from the land, is by an extensive and well-built suburb; in which nothing occurs worthy of remark, † excepting a large

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\* A very fine and copious spring, which was protected by a large building bearing considerable marks of antiquity, till lately existed in the meadow to the north of the town: it bore the name of Houndwell. The tunnel cut about two hundred yards to the north of the spring for the new Canal, has intercepted the vein which supplied it, and it now is very nearly dry.

† It may not be improper here to mention, that the Canal which is cut from Redbridge to Southampton, and which passes close along the shore of the river, quits the beach about half a mile above the town, and is carried in

Elm tree, on the left side of the road, which is still called the Pound Elm, from the ancient pound of the town, which once occupied that spot. This suburb was separated from the town by a very broad and deep ditch; which has been filled up within the memory of several persons yet living. In the plan of the town annexed to Speed's map of the Isle of Wight, the northern and north-eastern part of the ditch appears to have been double, having a low bank between the two fosses. On this bank, to the east of the Bar-gate, Butts are marked for the purpose of exercising the youth in archery. This ditch seems to have been originally cut so deep as to admit the sea at high water, and thereby completely insulate the town. Hanover Buildings to the east, and Orchard-street to the west, of the Bar-gate,

---

a subterraneous trunk under this suburb. It emerges to the day in the Houndwell meadow, and branches north and south. The northern branch meets the Itchen at Northam: the southern fills the ditch of the eastern wall of the town, and passing under a large arch cut for it through the bottom of the Gaol Tower, opens into the Southampton River immediately beyond it. This work, after a vast expense, has long remained in an imperfect state.

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occupy the site of the ditch; which was crossed by an arched bridge leading to the large and extremely beautiful gate called emphatically the Bar. This, it may be observed, was anciently the name of those edifices now called Gates; while the word *Gate* signified the street or road leading to the *Bar*. At York this ancient phraseology prevails to this day: Mickle-gate leads to Mickle-gate Bar, Walm-gate to Walm-gate Bar, and so of the rest. To return to the Bar: Its north front is of rather uncommon form, being a sort of semi-octagon, flanked with two lower semi-circular turrets, and crowned with large and handsome open machicollations. The arch of entrance is highly pointed, and adorned with a profusion of mouldings, which now end abruptly; a part of the flanks of the arch having been cut away to enlarge the carriage way, which was inconveniently narrow.

Above the arch is a row of elegant sunk pannels, alternately square and oblong. In each of the squares is a shield in relief, painted with a coat of arms. The bearings on these shields are as follow, beginning from the left:

1. Argent, a cross, gules. England.
2. Sable, three swords in pile. Paulet,

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3. Argent, a chevron, gules, between three griffins' heads erased, or. Lethieullier or Tylney.
  4. Or, two chevrons argent, between three shamrocks or trefoils, azure or vert. Abdy or Lewis.
  5. Argent, fretty, azure, a canton ermine. Noel.
  6. Azure, a chevron or between three owls or. Hewit.
  7. Gules bordured and crossed or, engrailed: four martlets. Unknown.
  8. Parted per fesse, argent and sable, a pale counterchanged and three bears saliant sable, two and one counterchanged, muzzled and chained, or. Mill.
  9. Azure, a cross saltire, argent. Scotland.  
And on two shields below, in the spandrils of the arch:
  10. Azure, a chevron or, between three leopards' heads erased or. Wyndham.
  11. Or, a chevron gules, charged with three pellets or. Unknown.

These arms are not, however, of an ancient date; as the coat of Mill has the baronets' hand on it, and the creation of that family was in 1619. The arms of Scotland also prove

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 that these ornaments were added to the gate after the accession of James I.\*

The footways on each side are modern perforations through the old flanking towers, and the brickwork entirely covers the ancient walls ; but by inspecting the sides of the principal arch, it seems as if there had formerly been arches opening laterally into these towers : if so, the scenery must have been singu-

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\* On the fronts of the two great buttresses, which flank the arch of entrance, are placed paintings at full length, and larger than the life, of two warriors, one of whom bears the name of Bevis, the other of Ascupart. Although these figures, when compared with the gate, are modern, yet as they have certainly held their present places during one hundred and twenty-five years, and are in a poem of that antiquity spoken of as at that time by no means novelties, it might seem an omission not to mention them. The connexion between Bevis and Southampton seems of a very ancient date. Whether the old metrical Romance of Sir Bevis was founded on any fact, I am not prepared to say ; but the occurrence of the name of Bevis on the admiralty seal hereafter more particularly described, proves that the knight was in no small estimation in the town at an early date. It is probable that the figures on the Bar-gate were placed there at the time that the arms just described were painted on the ancient shields. The style of the paintings fully proves that they could not have been of a date much anterior to James I.

larly magnificent. The arches and front hitherto described, are (though probably four hundred and fifty years old) modern, when compared with the central part of the gate; which is of early Norman work, if not more ancient than the Conquest. Its plain and massive round arches, which are considerably wider than the outer pointed one, are a full proof of this. Within this most ancient part, another addition has been made towards the town, forming a plain and flat front; which, though never very handsome, was much injured in the beginning of the century, by a most awkward attempt to adorn it. The points of its ancient windows are obliterated, a painted rustic covers the old wall, and queen Anne, in long embroidered stays, and a gown whose folds would disgrace even the barbarity of Saxon sculpture, exhibits her jolly fat face from a Gothic niche in the centre. The battlements have however escaped the ravage of improvement, and an ancient alarm bell hangs in a niche formed for it, between two of them.\*

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\* A very singular sculptured stone is inserted into the wall of this front, just above the ground, and close to the right-hand jamb of the centre arch. It appears to have

Over the arches is a spacious town-hall, fifty-two feet long and twenty-one feet wide, to which we ascend by a commodious stone staircase. Towards the top of this, a large pointed arch is visible. The hall is lighted by the four windows to the street, which within-side retain their ancient form, and are rather handsome. At the bottom of the hall, another pointed arch appears, which opens into a small lumber room: the face of the arch in this room is very handsome. The court of justice is not older than queen Elizabeth's time. A room for the grand jury communi-

---

been the exercise of some apprentice carver, in the early part of the twelfth century, and is covered with faces cut in a very rude style, of different sizes, to the number of eighteen, great and small. One of these is a man's face with a forked beard; another, a female, with a square coif hanging down on each side. These faces much resemble those which so commonly support the labels of arches, and are sometimes, though more rarely, found under brackets, in the sort of cornices which run round the exterior of the Norman and earliest pointed arched churches. The length of the stone is fifteen inches, and its height is nine inches. As it stands upside down in the wall, and is much corroded, it may easily, though in so conspicuous a situation, escape notice, as it did mine until after the first edition of this book was printed.



cates with the hall, and is lighted by windows towards the suburb. The grand-jury room is entirely modernised, but a small and dark room adjoining has in it a very curious round arch, with ornamental smaller segments of circles within it, and a small column on each jamb, in the style of the early Gothic.

The leads are spacious, and from them the gradual increase of this noble gate is easily traced. The original gate is flanked by two semicircular towers towards the country: between these, and projecting beyond them, the present beautiful exterior front was added: the front towards the town appears the most modern of all. The two lions sejant, \* cast in lead, which now form a respectable guard to the entrance of the gate, were formerly placed at the extremities of the parapet of the bridge which crossed the ditch, and were removed to their present situation when the ditch was filled up and the bridge demolished.

From the gate the wall runs eastward about

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\* These lions were given (in the room of two others which were decayed) in the year 1744, by William Lee, Esq, son of Lord Chief Justice Lee, on his being made a burgess.

two hundred yards, and is still visible, though much encumbered with dwelling-houses; among which, two semi-circular towers are barely discernible. It terminates in this direction by a high round tower, which has a more modern appearance than any other part of the walls, and seems to have been built with embrasures, like Calshot castle, for the reception of cannon. From this tower the wall runs quite straight, and in a direction nearly south, till it reaches the water. At a distance of about one hundred yards from the north-east angle, East-gate formerly stood: it was demolished about thirty years ago, but a drawing of it is among Grose's Antiquities, and it appears to have been equally ugly and inconvenient. The whole length of this side is about eight hundred yards, and it is defended by a broad and deep ditch (in the bottom of which the new canal is dug), and fortified by eight turrets; six of them of a semicircular form, and two square ones, which, however, appear rather more modern than the others. These two were probably built about the time of Edward VI; as that young monarch, in the very curious account he gives his friend Fitzpatric, of his summer excursion into this

county, says that the townsmen had spent much money in repairing their walls for his reception. Leland mentions only six towers in this eastern wall, probably the six round ones. The upper part of the north-eastern tower was probably built at the same time; and by Grose's plate of the East-gate, it had embrasures similar to those of this tower, and most likely added in the same repair. The structure both of the wall and towers is of coarse and irregular masonry: the upper part is totally destroyed, and no mode either of defence or annoyance appears, except a very long and narrow loop, with a circular enlargement in the middle, near the foot of each of the towers. Where the wall reaches the sea, it is terminated by a strong tower with a gate. The arch of entrance is pointed, and has within it two others, of different forms and heights, and two grooves for portcullises. Over this gate is the Bridewell. It seems evident that originally the ditch was dug so deep, as to admit the sea at high water quite up to the north-eastern angle of the wall before mentioned; and the projecting tower and building which we shall next survey, was very likely added to defend the sluices, on which so essen-

tial a requisite to the defence of the town depended, and which of course an assailant would endeavour to destroy. This mass of building is evidently less ancient than the walls, and probably of about the same date as the outer part of the Bar-gate. It has been supposed that this tower was built in the time of Henry VIII, and a passage in the records of the town seems to countenance the idea; but it is certainly far more ancient than that prince's reign; and the passage in question probably refers to the north-eastern tower, the more modern appearance of which has been already noticed. Its masonry is much better than that of the walls, and the windows and battlements are very neat. It is, however, of a form extremely ill calculated for defence, or rather offence to assailants; and under its shelter a large body of troops might advance in security almost up to the gate. Its irregular form and projecting buttresses render it, however, a picturesque object. It is now the gaol for felons and debtors of the town and county of Southampton.

On the platform just under it lies a very fine and curious brass cannon, of the age of Henry VIII, and bearing the following inscriptions and ornaments:

On an escutcheon crowned with an imperial crown, England and France quarterly, supported by a dragon and greyhound. Under it, in a tablet,

HENRICVS. VIII  
ANGLIE. FRAN  
CIE. ET. HIBERN  
IE. REX. FIDEI. DE  
PENSOR. INVICT  
ISSIMVS. F. F.

On another tablet, close below the former :

MDXXXII  
HR VIII

Just before the touch-hole :

ARCANVS. DE. ARCANIS  
CESENEN. FECIT

On the breech-ring :

COLOVRINA 4214

Two perforated lions' heads serve as rings to lift it.

The ornaments on it are in a good style, although carelessly finished.

On the shore, between high and low water mark, near the platform, stood the Admiralty Gallows belonging to the local jurisdiction of the town. It is represented in Speed's plan of

Southampton, annexed to his map of the Isle of Wight.

To return to the walls: From the tower and gate just mentioned, the wall runs in a direction nearly west for about one hundred and twenty yards, having the sea washing its foot, till it meets the Great or East Quay. In this length it is defended by one large and high turret, at which it makes a little bend to the northward. An ancient gate with a low pointed arch, with a groove for a portcullis, and machicollations over it, opens on this quay; which projects into the river about one hundred and thirty yards, and is evidently as ancient (at least in part) as the town itself. This Water-gate has been so defaced by houses built against it on every side, that it is not easy to make out its original form; nor can we now trace out the manner in which it was connected with the wall to the south-east of it, the line of which projects at least thirty feet beyond the outer front of the gate. The demolition of an old house built against it, has lately brought down all the machicollations; and in its present mutilated state, no one but a staunch antiquary could much lament its total removal; which is seriously talked of,

and which would essentially conduce to the convenience of the commerce carried on upon the quay.\* Just beyond the northern tower of this gate, two machicollations appear in the wall, which perhaps defended another gate or postern opening on the quay for the more convenient carrying on the trade of it; but the lower part of the wall is here so completely blocked up by houses, that this point cannot be ascertained.

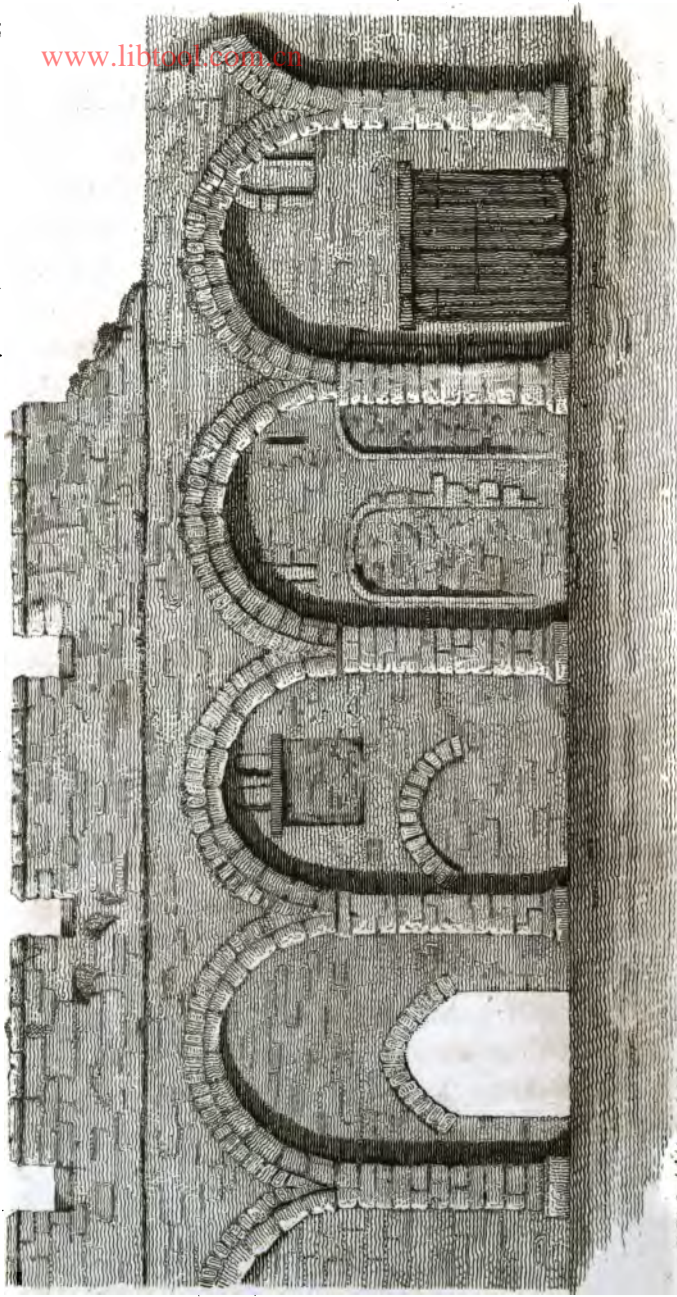
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\* This intended demolition has now taken place, and the whole gate, with the old buildings attached to it, is removed. In apartments above this gate, and immediately adjoining to it, the business of the customs is said to have been anciently transacted. The two principal rooms were of good proportion, and had wainscot ceilings and ornamented chimney-pieces. Over the chimney-piece of the eastern or innermost room, were three coats of arms. In demolishing the gate, nothing remarkable was found, except part of a large flat monumental stone, which had been worked into the wall in building the gate. It is of the usual early Norman form, and has the lower part of a figure in long robes outlined on it, and an inscription running round it between two straight lines. The letter of this inscription is of the Norman form, and the words PVR SA ALME PAR CHARITE PRIEZ are legible. A few letters, forming probably the end of the name of the person to whose memory the stone was inscribed, remain, but the name cannot be made out.

From the Water-gate the wall continues in a curved line to the north-west, with its foot in the sea. Its construction is here similar to the part already described, and the towers which defend it are much of the same form, though only partially visible even from the sea, as wharfs and timber-yards are now built out into the water in front of them. At about two hundred yards from the Water-gate, the wall makes a more sudden bend to the northward, and seems to have suffered in this part some injury, either by failure of its foundation, or breach made in it. At present it has the appearance of having slipped outwards from the foot, into the sea. At the north end of this part, a high open arch appears in the wall, of the same sort as those which we shall soon describe; and beyond that arch the wall goes on quite plain and very high, till it reaches the West-gate. This gate is a low, plain, pointed vault, very strongly and carefully defended; there being in its thickness at least two grooves for portcullises, and six square apertures for pouring hot water, or other annoyances, on assailants. The tower over this gate is modernised, but does not seem ever to have been in any way handsome. The length of the wall



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8-1/2 in. English field. surr. cast.

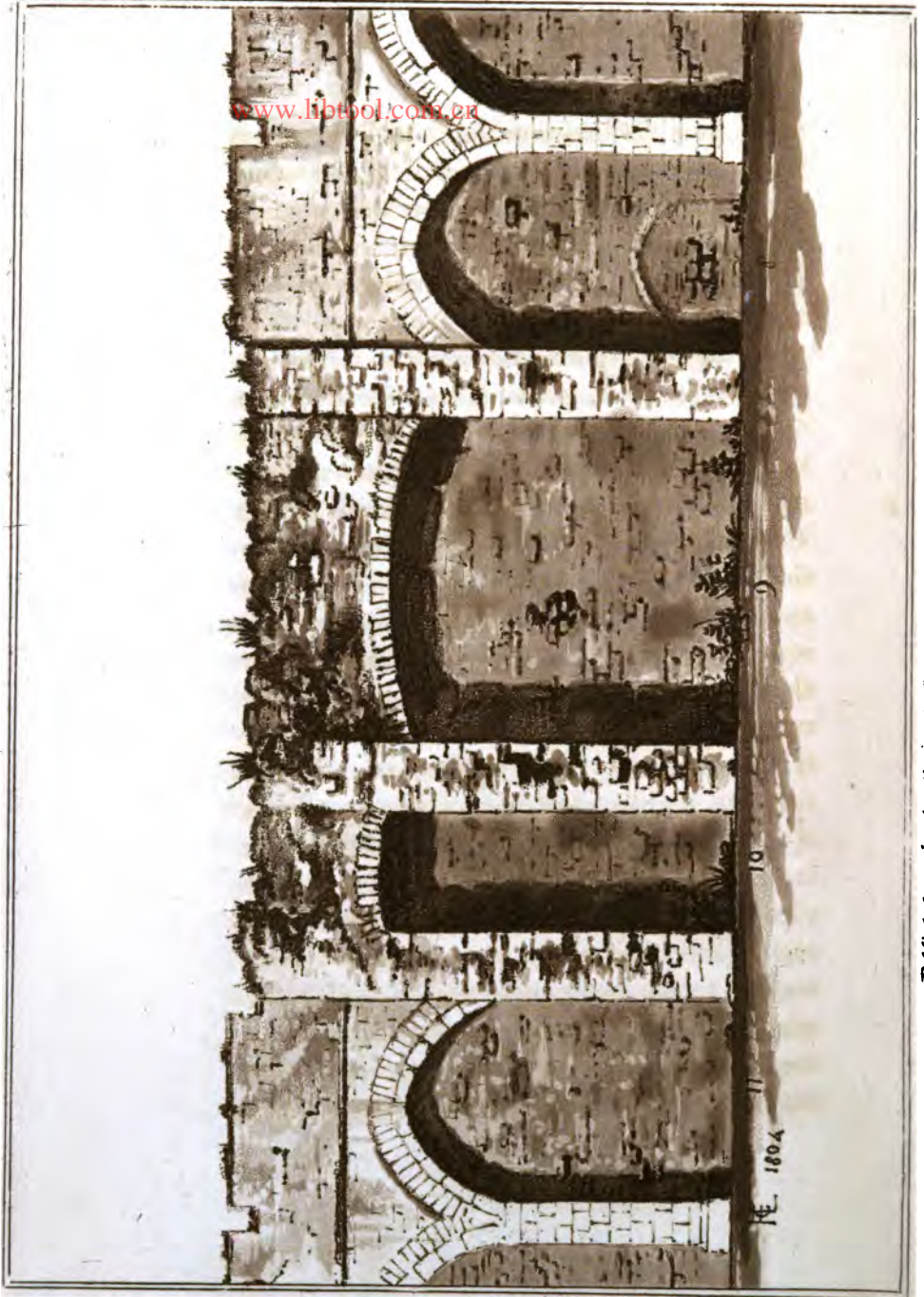
Published on the Act directed June 1808  
by T. Baker, Southampton.

J. Rymer sculp.

from the Water-gate to the West-gate is about three hundred and eighty yards.

The West-quay is small, but, by the caution with which its gate was defended, has evidently been considered as of great consequence, in former ages.

To the north of the West-gate, and fronting the area occupied by the public Baths and Rooms, the wall is of great height, and exhibits a mode of building quite peculiar, and which seems singularly ill contrived for strength and defence. The wall may here be said to be double. The interior wall has been the front of a row of very ancient buildings; a part of which has been ornamented with Saxon double windows above, and doors of different forms below. These apertures have all been filled up, and against the front a row of high, and slender piers is built, which partly cover the ancient apertures of the wall behind them. These piers are two feet two inches in breadth, and project three feet and three inches from the wall; and they have a base projecting four inches and a half every way, which is about eighteen inches high above the present level of the ground. At ten feet six inches above the basement, arches are turned from pier to pier;



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width, is a very curious small postern, which has been defended by a portcullis, and opens into a narrow steep alley called Blue-anchor-lane. In this lane are to be seen the remains of two very ancient edifices, of which we shall say more in the survey of the streets. The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth arches are each eleven feet wide. The fifth arch has only a small loop within it: the sixth nothing but a plain wall. The seventh has a large modern opening to a court of small houses. The thickness of the wall may here be distinctly seen; and it is very thin for its height and the uses of defence. The eighth has a rough pointed arch in the wall. A large pier then succeeds, with a straight joint all the way up, against which the arch is turned: this pier is therefore older than the arcade. A very flat arch, eighteen feet wide, comes next, with a thick pier; and then an arch, six feet four inches wide, and very flat, with another thick pier and a straight joint exteriorly. These two arches and their three piers (together with another similar narrow arch and its thick piers, which we shall presently notice) seem as if they had belonged to a building which projected beyond the present front of the wall;

for the face of the small arch is rough, as if broken off. This building, whose ancient form and destination it is now impossible even to guess at, must have been of great size and strength; and the double walls united at the top by the flat arches, are a very curious and singular circumstance, and well worthy of notice by those who survey this interesting part of the wall.

The regular series of arches then goes on. The eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth, are each eleven feet wide; the fifteenth only nine feet three inches. The eleventh has nothing within it; the twelfth, two pointed door-ways, the one to the right almost hidden by the pier. The thirteenth has a small pointed window or niche, and by it a flat segment-headed door. The fourteenth has a large semicircular arch, of good masonry; the fifteenth a slight trace of a window aloft. Then comes in another thick pier with a straight joint exteriorly, and a flat arch, six feet four inches wide, and broken in front like the former. A thick pier with a straight joint all the way up exteriorly, forms with this arch a mass of work very similar to the one before described. The range of arches then begins

again. The seventeenth and eighteenth are eleven feet wide. The seventeenth has nothing in the wall behind it; the eighteenth has a flat segment-headed door or window, and near it, but lower, a neat large round arch, which extends into the nineteenth arch; which is only five feet three inches in width, and sharp-pointed to range at the top with the rest; and here this very singular construction ends with a straight joint all the way up. The wall beyond it appears much older, and in it is a low gate with a pointed arch, called Bridle-gate,\* over which are the brackets of two machicollations. This gate is merely an arch in the wall, and not, like the other gates, secured by a tower and portcullises in its thickness. To the right hand, just within it, is a pointed arch, which opened into some building now totally destroyed; and on the left, high up, is a door which seems to have opened on a staircase: a narrow arched passage runs through the thickness of the wall over the gate, and terminates at this door. The wall at this gate is five feet three inches in thickness.

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\* This gate, in the old records, is called Beidles-Gate.

The wall just described was certainly peculiarly ill calculated for defence against any assailants who could establish themselves at its foot, as the demolition of a single pier would inevitably make a wide breach in the arcade which it supported. It might indeed be conjectured, that this part of the wall was washed by the sea (as the parts to the north and south of it still are), which would render it less easy of access to sappers or engines of destruction: but the regular base to the piers,—the Bridle-gate opening on the area before them,—and the Blue-anchor postern nearly at the same level, and bearing no appearance of a water gate,—together with the more ancient numerous doors in the wall behind the arches, which certainly did not open into the water,—discountenance this supposition; and the causes which determined the builders to adopt so apparently preposterous a plan, we shall probably not easily divine. The length of the wall from the West-gate to the Bridle-gate is about one hundred and fifty yards.

From the Bridle-gate the wall makes a sudden projection at right angles to its former line, of about sixteen yards; and then, being at its exterior angle fortified by a square tower,



turns back at an obtuse angle : another square tower defends this face, which forms a large irregular projecting mass, beyond the general line of the wall ; which then continues in a direction nearly due north, high out of the water, and fortified by six very strong and handsome buttresses. The third of these buttresses is much larger than the rest, and has in it a door-case, high above the foot of the wall, and which probably was a water-gate to the Castle. In the intervals of the buttresses are traces of several loops and small windows, which lighted a large vault ; of which more when we treat of the castle. This part of the wall is beautifully mantled with ivy. The wall then runs northwards in a straight and flat face, and has one buttress more, at some distance from the rest, of most exquisite masonry. Just beyond this buttress is a large angular one, which, by flying arches to the wall on each side, supported a small tower. Here the wall goes off at an obtuse angle to the north-east, and has three very strong buttresses in this face. At this spot the wall of the castle abuts on the town wall ; of which more anon. This point is two hundred yards from Bridle-gate.

From hence the wall continues of very good masonry, straight to the north-west corner of the town; and it is defended by a very handsome semicircular turret, with a projecting parapet, supported by large corbels. The height of the wall from its foot is here twenty-eight feet, and of the turret, forty feet. The tide washes the whole of this wall, quite to the north-west corner, which is one hundred yards from the point above mentioned; and the ground within is almost level with its top the whole way; so that it forms a most beautiful terrace to the gardens which belong to the houses in the High-street and Castle-square, and run quite to the wall, commanding an enchanting view of the bay, from the town to the village of Milbrook, and the river beyond it quite to Redbridge.

The north-west angle of the wall is fortified by a very elegant angular buttress, with a projecting parapet supported by corbels, forming a sort of small watch tower; and, very near it, to the eastward, is a high and strong circular tower. This angle of the wall has a very handsome appearance from the water. From hence the wall runs due east to the Bar, and is about one hundred and seventy

yards in length : one semicircular tower defends it.

The total circuit of the walls, as taken from Mr. Milne's survey of the town in Faden's new map of Hampshire, is two thousand two hundred yards, or one mile and a quarter.

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HAVING thus viewed every thing worthy notice in the exterior part of the town and its walls, and being returned to the point from whence we set out on our survey,—we will now enter the town by the Bar-gate; on passing which, the most careless observer must necessarily be struck with the beauty of the High, anciently called English, Street; which, for breadth, length, and cleanliness, can scarcely be equalled in England. The painter may perhaps lament, that neat brick fronts have in so many instances succeeded to the picturesque timber gables, which not long ago constituted the principal part of the houses; but it cannot be denied that comfort has gained what picture may have lost. The gentle bend and gradual descent of the street, add much to its beauty; as a straight level line of near half a mile (which is the length of the High-street from the Bar to the Water-gate) could not but be tiresome to the eye.

The first object which attracts particular notice, is the new Church of All Saints, built in the purest style of the Grecian Ionic order, by the late Mr. Reveley; whose premature decease the lovers of the arts will long lament. On entering this church, the bold and grace-

ful curvature of the roof claims high admiration. The distribution of the whole area into pews, destroys the effect of this building, as it does of every other sacred edifice in this country: but a new and peculiar deformity exists in this church, contrary alike to good taste and the uniform practice of the church of England. The pulpit and reading-desk are placed in the centre of the church, so as completely to hide the altar from almost every part of it; and the officiating minister turns his back directly to it during the whole of the service. It is to be lamented, that the Church of England, having formed her liturgy and ritual most closely on the model of the primitive church, did not at the same time adopt the form of the ancient ambones or desks, which stood on each side of the nave, of equal height, and from which in turn the different parts of the service were read; instead of huddling into one mean and incongruous group, the clerk's desk, the reading desk, and pulpit, to which the art of man cannot give either dignity or grace. In the church which we are now considering, the reading desk and pulpit might have been placed, with peculiarly good effect, on each side of the recess for the altar; and as the

founding board is omitted, a very elegant form might have been given to them, with no great deviation from the usual shape. As they now stand, besides their very irreverent position with respect to the altar, they have the exact resemblance to the establishment of an auctioneer.

Nearly opposite to All Saints' church is the Castle-lane, and in the wall of one of the corner houses is inserted a stone circular bas relief, with a male and female head facing each other, cut on it. On inquiry I found that this stone was brought with a quantity of others from Netley, in order to be used in the foundation of the house, and was preserved on account of its sculpture. Although much defaced, the carving still appears to have been extremely good for the age in which it was probably done. By the size and shape it seems to have been the keystone of a groined arch; and it is not impossible that the heads on it were those of the founder Henry III. and his queen Eleonora. If so, it is much to be lamented that it is so much injured.

A little lower down, on the east side of the street, in a house lately Harland's Hotel, is a room profusely decorated with very fine carv-

ing, of the age of James or Charles I. The chimney-piece in particular, which has the royal arms in very high relief in the centre, and the rose and thistle in the lateral compartments, with terms and grotesque figures supporting them, is executed in a very masterly style; and the oak, having never suffered from paint, is of a fine mahogany colour, and as sharp as the day it was finished.

The church of St. Lawrence, which is the next object in the street, is small, and almost choked up with houses erected round it. The east window is not ugly, but the church does not contain a single object either of beauty or antiquity.

Holy Rood Church, which stands a little lower down on the same side of the street, has been much altered on the outside, but does not seem ever to have been of elegant architecture. The west window is deprived of its tracery, and the tower, which is rather uncommonly situated at the south-west angle of the church, is void of beauty. The doors of the central entrance are very neatly ornamented with Gothic tracery, in a good style, and well preserved. The colonnade which runs along the

whole front, is by the lower class of inhabitants known by the name of the "Proclamation." Probably on this spot, close by the old audit-house and market, the magistrates proclaimed peace, war, or other public and official notifications, which now are promulgated by the less impressive mode of printed papers affixed to the walls of the principal public buildings, and often confounded with common advertisements. In hustings erected within this portico, the poll is taken at elections of members for the town.

The church within is large and handsome, but its appearance is much injured by the organ and its loft, which totally obstruct the view into the chancel. The nave and side aisles are very neatly ceiled in pannels, and the roses which ornament the intersections of the ribs appear neatly carved. At the south-west door there is a wooden screen of mixed Gothic, of queen Elizabeth or James the First's time, which is uncommonly well executed, and of elegant design. In the nave, directly over and opposite the pulpit and desk, are two very singular long and narrow apertures in the span-drils of the corresponding arches. The choir



formerly extended to them, and they received the timbers of the rood-loft.

The church had a regular choir, in the manner of a collegiate; a circumstance unusual in parochial churches. This singularity (which will also be remarked in St. Michael's church) was probably owing to their having belonged to the priory of St. Dionysius, whose monks, on great festivals, would perform divine service in them, with considerable pomp.\* The churches of All Saints and St. Lawrence also belonged to St. Dionysius; having been

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\* It is probable that there was some permanent choral establishment at Southampton; for in the will of the illustrious William of Wykeham, a bequest of twenty pounds (a very considerable sum at that period) is made "Domino Johanni Keton præcentori ecclesie Suthampton." It is not possible to ascertain, whether the precentorship was attached to any particular church in the town, or whether, by *Ecclesia*, St. Mary's was meant, in opposition to *Capella*, by which we know that the four churches, of St. Michael, Holy Rood, St. Lawrence, and All Saints, were designated, in the charter of Henry the Second. In the same will of William of Wykeham, a vestment and chalice are left, "Ecclesie Beatæ Mariæ Suthampton;" and twenty marks, for the repairs of their church, to the prior and convent "Sancti Dyonisii juxta Suthampton."

all four given to that priory by the same charter of Henry II. Many of the stalls yet remain, some in their places, and some mixed in the pews. They are of extremely neat workmanship and pretty design, and on scrolls in different parts of them, the motto of the munificent prelate Fox, bishop of Winchester, "Est Deo Gracia," remains, cut in a very beautiful Gothic letter, in high relief.

The choir or present chancel extends beyond the side aisles, and has handsome windows on each side, though those to the north are now blocked up by houses. The east window is large, but, like the west window, is deprived of its tracery. A few shattered fragments of fine painted glass appear in some of the windows. Several modern monuments of the Stanleys of Paultons are fixed to the walls of the choir; that to the memory of Miss Stanley, by Rysbrack, is the only one worthy notice. In the middle of the chancel stands a handsome brass eagle desk. The font, which has been removed from its ancient place near the church door, and now stands under the organ loft, is octagonal, and adorned with niches, in a neat though plain Gothic style.

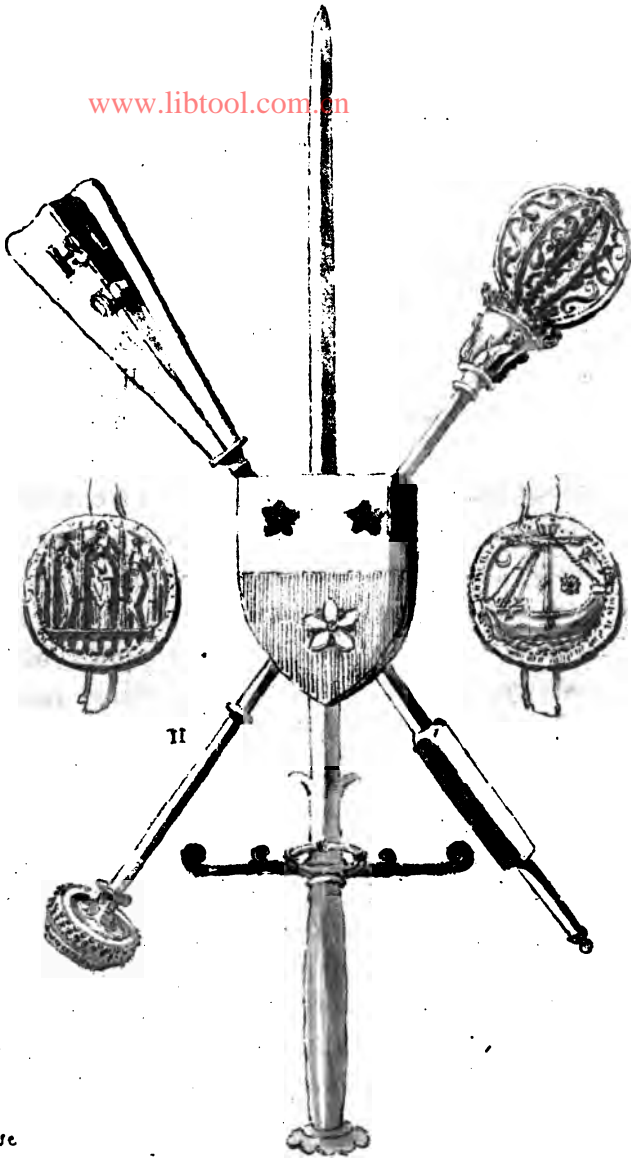
The conduit which stands opposite the church, is a modern and ugly building. The springs which supply it are excellent: they rise in the hill north of the town about a mile, and unite at an ancient stone conduit-house just under the Polygon, whence the water is brought to the town by a leaden pipe. This conduit is as ancient as the eighteenth year of Edward I, and was made for the use of the house of Friars Minors, situated in the south-eastern part of the town. The water was formerly brought in earthen pipes, formed in lengths of about eighteen inches, and fitting into each other with a shoulder or flanch. They are still not unfrequently dug up in the repairs of the pavement.\*

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\* A more copious supply of water is now proposed to be brought to the town, from springs on the highest parts of the common, to the north of the town. The waters of these are to be collected in a reservoir, which will be at so high a level, as to afford an easy supply to every house, as well above as below the Bar. The work is as yet but little advanced; in digging, however, on the common, for the reservoir, several of those bronze instruments, with an edge, and socket for a handle, not unlike large chisels, and which have been usually known by the name of Celts, have been found.

In a house nearly opposite, and now inhabited by Mr. Hawes, is a large room with a very handsome ceiling stuccoed in compartments, of the date of Elizabeth. A house on the left side of the street, directly opposite to the Audit-house, has a low room on the ground floor with a stuccoed ceiling in the same taste with Mr. Hawes's; and a large space now occupied by a staircase and glass-ceiled parlour, but which once was a considerable hall, is decorated with a deep stuccoed frieze of arabesque foliage, and the arms of queen Elizabeth and her initials, twice repeated. In this house, the occupier, Mrs. Cowley, informed me she remembered much painted glass, of which only a small fragment now remains.

The Audit-house, which stands opposite, on the right side of the street, is a new and handsome edifice. In it the records, seals, and regalia of the corporation are kept. Of the records I can say nothing, except that among them there are several charters and books which would repay the labour of the antiquary who shall inspect them. The seal of the corporation is very ancient and curious. The original obverse, which is now dissolved, and



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nearly defaced by time and rust, is of bell metal, about three inches and a quarter in diameter, and bears the impression of a single-masted ship, on the sea, with the sail furled, and a very high poop and fore-castle. On the deck a figure seems standing. Round it, in a fair Roman character, is this legend,—  
**SIGILLUM COMUNE VILLE SUTHAMTONIE.**  
 There does not appear ever to have been any armorial bearing whatever on this seal; and the device of a ship seems to have been common, in early times, to all seaports. The workmanship of this face of the seal seems to have been very rude, but the letters are well cut.

The reverse of the seal is still in use, and bears a triple Gothic niche, of good design. In the centre compartment is the Virgin and Child,—in the lateral ones, two figures turned respectfully towards the Virgin. All the figures are standing, and of considerable elegance in their attitudes and drapery. The inscription round the edge is quite illegible through age.

This face of the seal seems less ancient than the obverse. The obverse now used is of silver, and presented to the town by private ge-

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nerosity, in the year 1587. Its device is a ship of war, three-masted and in full sail, bearing on its mainfail the shield of arms of the town, party per fesse, argent and gules, charged with three roses, two gules in chief and one argent in base. This bearing is not probably more ancient than Henry VII, when the hostile roses were united.\* Round the

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\* Queen Elizabeth, in the seventeenth year of her reign, granted arms to the town of Southampton, which are registered in the Herald's Office, and blazoned as follows :

“ Per fesse, silver and gules, three roses counter-changed of the field. The crest and supporters hereafter following, that is to say, upon the helme, on a wreath of silver and gules, on a mount vert, a castell of gold ; out of the castell, a quene in her imperial majestie, holding in the right hand the sword of justice ; in the left, the balance of equitie, mantelled gules ; dobled silver.”

“ The supporters ; out of two ships proper upon the sea, standing in the forepart of the ships, two lions rampant, gold.”

In the patent, it is declared, that the town had borne arms long before.

It does not appear that the town ever made use of the cumbrous pomp of crest and supporters, thus added by Elizabeth, to the simple and beautiful coat of arms of the town, and they probably exist only in the Herald's Office, and in a drawing preserved in the Audit-house. The ancient bearing of the arms on the sail of a ship, perhaps,



edge,—SIGILLUM COMMUNE VILLÆ SOUTH-AMTONIÆ. The whole is of bold relief and good work.

There is also a very fair silver seal, exactly two inches in diameter, now used as the admiralty seal. Its bearing is a ship single-masted, and with the sail furled, neatly and boldly cut: on one side of the mast a crescent, on the other a star, and lower down a large rose. The inscription is in a very fine Gothic character, and runs thus,—“ Sigillum Majoratus Ville Suthamtone. Beves.”

The mention of Bevis is singular, as it does not appear what connexion his name can have with the seal. The form of the letters and style of the work indicate the seal not to be

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suggested the ships as supporters to the lions; and the lions themselves are not unlikely connected with those which now guard the Bar-gate. The crest was no doubt a compliment of the “Queen’s Majestie” to herself. For the copy of the grant of arms, as well as many other articles of curious information, I am happy to acknowledge my obligation to Arthur Hammond, esq, of the town of Southampton; whose attention has been long and successfully engaged by the history and antiquities of his native place.

more ancient than the reign of Henry IV. or V.\*

There are six silver maces: two large gilt modern ones, and four small and ancient. The most curious of these is probably as old as Henry VII. It is only sixteen inches in

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\* Three other seals, of brass or bell metal, are kept among the archives, though now not used. The most ancient of these is rather more than an inch and three quarters in diameter. Its bearing is a crowned head, full faced, with flowing hair, and a very youthful appearance. The neck to the shoulders is bare, and the robe comes straight in front, like the old fashion of women's boddices. On the breast is a castle or tower; and on each side of the head, a lion passant guardant, as if standing on the shoulders of the figure: the head of each lion is towards the face of the figure. The whole is in bold relief, and not ill cut. Round it, in Saxon capitals, runs the following inscription: S EDWARDI REG ANGLIE P RECOGNICONE DEBITORV APVD SVTHT. It has a ring on the back by way of handle, and on the back is cut, in a careless manner, but in characters which look ancient, ADMIRAL.

The "recogniones debitorum," for the authentication of which this seal was designed, were evidently those entered into under the statute of Acton-Bumel, of the eleventh of Edward the First, and usually known by the name of Statute Merchant. For the security of foreign merchants trading to England, the lands, as well as the chat-

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length : it has a small head with a crown supported by three fitting lions, and above that, an open ornament of five semioval leaves, like the ancient maces of arms : on the top is engraved a rose, the badge of the town : the lower end is a large ornamented pommel, with

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tels of their debtors, were solemnly pledged to them by deed, sealed with the seal of the debtor, and also with the king's seal, to be affixed by the mayor or chief wardens of such town as the king should appoint. The workmanship of this seal, its perfect preservation, and its destination, render it a most curious and valuable remain of antiquity.

A seal nearly similar to this, but apparently of inferior work, is engraved in Milner's History of Winchester, as the seal of that city ; which, however, it certainly was not originally ; being provided under the statutes de Mercatoribus, for the express purpose of sealing recognizances, as its legend shows.

The next in antiquity, is an inch and a quarter in diameter, and is charged with a leopard's head, full faced, and open mouthed, with a fleur de lys on each side of it ; above the head are two small roses, and below it two more. The whole is enclosed in an irregular six-foiled tracery, of very pretty design, but ill cut. Round the seal runs the following inscription, in a Gothic character : *Sigillu : officii : stapulle : ville : Southamptonii :* This seal has an upright handle.

England and France quarterly chafed on it. The other three ancient maces are made on the model of this, but not nearly so old: One of these was not many years since carried before the mayorefs, on all occasions when she appeared with her husband in form, as in going to church, &c; on which occasions she wore a scarlet robe or gown.

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This seal is as it were the counterpart of the first. Edward the Third, following the example of his illustrious grandfather, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, extended the advantages and encouragement granted to merchants by the Statute of Merchants of Edward the First, by the Statute of Staples. This statute begins by enacting, that the commerce of wool, leather, and lead, shall be carried on at certain towns, called Staple Towns, of which several are not sea-ports, but to each of these inland staples a port is assigned for entries. It is also enacted, that in each staple there shall be a seal kept by the mayor of the staple. Winchester is one of the staple towns appointed by this act, and Southampton is its port. The advantages resulting to commerce from the establishment of these offices of staple, it is foreign to this work to detail. Blackstone and Reeves will furnish ample information,

The alteration of style in the interval of seventy years, which elapsed between the cutting of these two seals, is remarkable. The age of the first Edward has very much the advantage.

The silver oar, the badge of the maritime jurisdiction of the mayor (which is very extensive, reaching not only over the whole Southampton water, but half channel over from Hurst castle to Hayling island), is modern, and not handsome. The sword of state is very ancient and curious. It is one of the vast two-handed weapons of our ancestors, with a

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It may not be improper here to add, that although the jurisdiction of the staple is now totally obsolete, yet the mayor of the town is annually elected mayor of the staple; and a constable of the staple, and a weigher of wool, are annually appointed, as is enacted in the Statute de Stapulis, chapter 21.

The third seal is nearly an inch and three quarters in diameter, and bears a shield of the form used in Henry the Eighth's time, with a fesse or between three roses, two and one. These were probably the arms of the town at the time when this seal was cut, though different from the arms of Southampton now borne, which in this present form were granted by queen Elizabeth. On the sides of the shield are a Roman H and a tun, the usual device for Hampton. There is no inscription. On the back of this Seal is cut, ADMIRAL, in the same character, and apparently by the same hand as that before mentioned.

The mayor on all public occasions wears a very handsome gold chain, which, with its medallion, was presented to the corporation by Bercher Baril, esq, senior bailiff in 1792. Previous to that time, no chain was worn.

very fine blade four feet four inches in length, and two inches wide. The guard is of iron (now gilt), one foot and a half long; and the hilt is likewise one foot and a half, with a large iron pommel. In the council chamber is hung up a good carving of the arms of England in wood, supported by a dragon and greyhound. Under the coat is a portcullis, and a pomegranate, or some fruit similar to it, and over the crown are two angels hovering. It seems of the age of Henry VII. There is also a carving of the arms of Winchester, quartered with bishop Fox's pelican, and his motto, "Est Deo Gracia."

Towards the street there is a very large and handsome room for public meetings.

The ground-floor is open, and, with a large area behind it, forms a neat and commodious market, which is as well supplied as that of any town in England.

A little lower down, on the same side, stands a very old house, the parsonage of Holy Rood church, with a curious stuccoed front, covered with ornaments. In three square tablets appear, in the centre one the feathers of the Prince of Wales, and on each side a rose crowned with a clove crown. The style of



these ornaments does not allow us to suppose them later than the reign of Henry VIII: they are perhaps still older. The long duration of this stucco is curious.

The door of entrance of this house, with its hinges and iron ring, is very ancient; and in the spandrils of the door-case are cut, in an ancient Gothic letter, *Jesus, Maria*.

A little lower down, on the left side of the street, is an old conduit, with a stone front; and close adjoining is, or rather was, the remain of a buttress, and some good Gothic niche-work, which seems to have adorned the conduit, or else was a part of the friary, which occupied a large space of ground, on a part of which Gloucester-square is now built, and probably in some measure with the materials of the old friary.

On another part of its site is erected a vast square building, which is a very conspicuous object from the lower part of the town. Its original designation was a sugar refinery, but the project failed; and it has since been a military hospital, the scene of dreadful mortality, from a malignant dysentery which raged in it; it now is used as a warehouse for the vast quantities of Spanish wool, which by *streets*

*of weather* are landed here every year.\* Human bones are found, in digging for foundations, over the whole site of the friary.

This religious house was founded in the year 1240.

Quite at the bottom of the street on the left, is a large mass of stone buildings, now converted into warehouses, with vast vaults under them. As there are several handsome Gothic doors in this building, it does not seem probable that it was originally destined for that use, to which, however, it has been long applied. This building extends far into Winkle-street, and is separated from the Water-gate by a narrow passage, covered overhead by a very old timber house, which it is now in contemplation to take down, together with the Water-gate mentioned before. Opposite to this passage is a very old conduit, built

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\* England and Spain were at war when this was written, and the commerce for wool was carried on in neutral vessels, mostly Hamburgers or Prussians, who cleared out from Spain for their own ports, but under pretence of damage at sea, put into English harbours, and unloaded their valuable cargoes. The greater part of this trade was carried on at Southampton.

against the town wall, with a sloping roof of hewn stone. In the old house near this conduit, and now a carpet manufactory, the free-school founded by Edward VI. was originally lodged.

At the end of the warehouses just mentioned, in Winkle-street, a round arched gateway, with an old turret over it, opens into the court of the Maison Dieu, or God's House, founded by two merchants, brothers, in the reign of Henry III. It was by Edward III. given to Queen's College, founded by his consort Philippa, with which it to this day remains. The chapel is very ancient, but has been so defaced by repair, that few traces of its original form are visible.\* An old porch walled up is just discernible in Winkle-street. The lodgings of the inmates of the hospital

## G

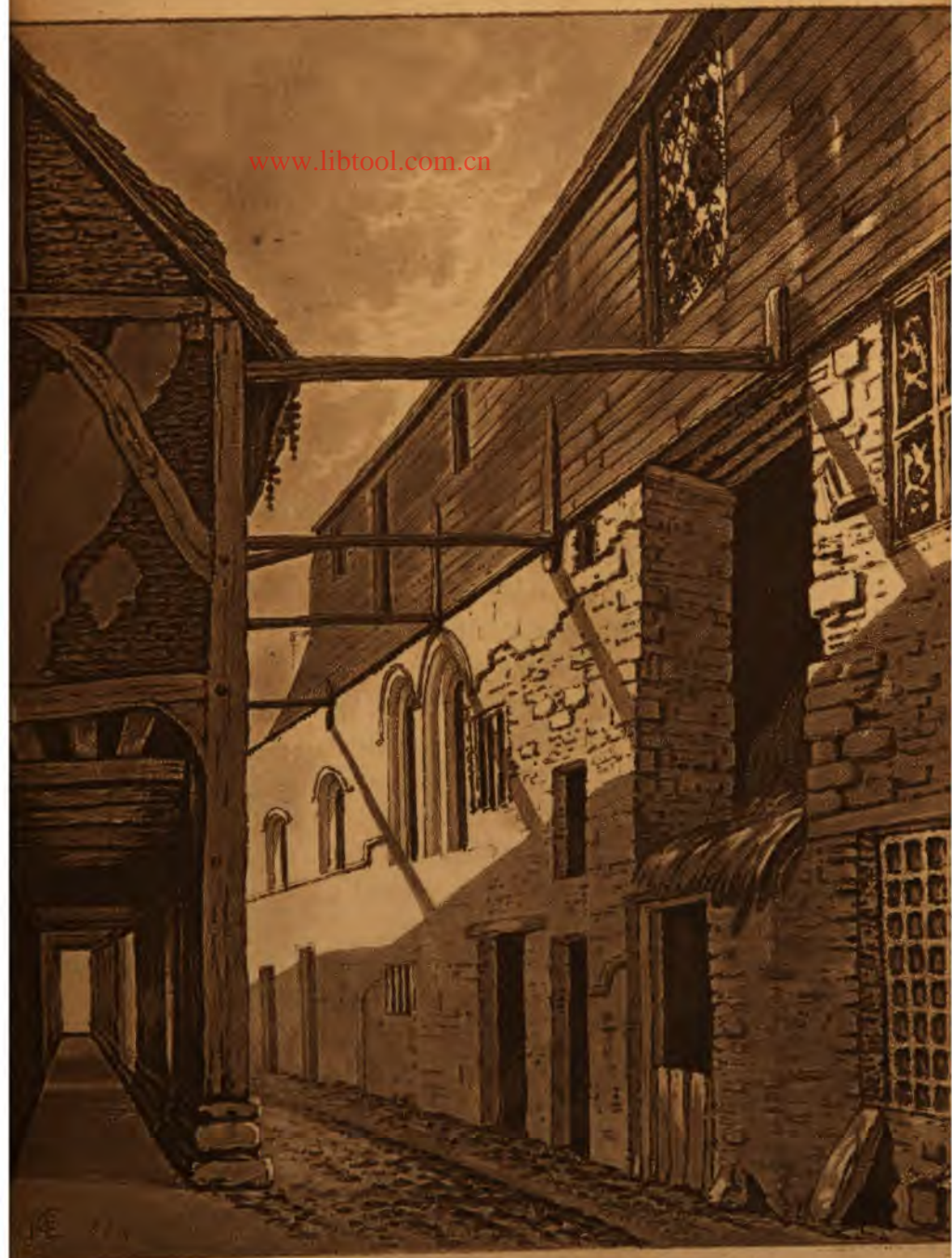
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\* In this chapel, the Lords Cambridge and Masham, and Sir Thomas Grey, who were beheaded for a conspiracy against Henry the Fifth, just before he sailed from hence for France, were buried, and a tablet was placed, commemorative of them, by the late earl of Delawar, but there is no ancient memorial of them.

have flat-headed windows of a rather uncommon form.

Returning back to the Water-gate,—at the bottom of the High-street, on the right hand, we enter Porters'-lane; which is so narrow and closed by overhanging old houses, that it is difficult to view the front of a very considerable and most curious edifice, which has much the appearance of having been a magnificent dwelling or palace. The extent of its front to the street is one hundred and eleven feet, and its height seventeen feet. It is divided into two stories by a semicircular fascia or cord; the lower story being ten, and the upper seven feet high. In the lower or ground floor, two doors, with flat arches of segments of circles, are discernible; which are irregularly placed; but the upper story is perfectly regular, excepting one smaller window at the west end; and is pierced with a noble triple window in the centre, with two very handsome ones, of rather lesser size, on each side. Of the central window only two divisions now remain, but there can be scarcely a doubt that it was triple, as otherwise it would be irregularly placed with respect to the lateral windows; whereas, under that suppo-

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fitment, the whole design is perfectly uniform. These central openings probably went down to the floor, and formed as it were an open portico in the middle of the room. Their arch is a very little flatter than a semicircle. The side windows had double semicircular-headed lights, in the usual style of the Saxon or Norman windows; but the flat elliptical arch enclosing them is very singular. These windows have a very flat segment arch within; and the angles of the opening are finished with a very neat little column, quite in the style of the early Gothic, with the rib peculiar to that style, running down the front of each column. The capitals are neatly carved with hanging leaves, in the same early Gothic style. These pillars and their capitals certainly lead to a suspicion, either that this building is not of so high antiquity as the exterior front would warrant our supposing it to be, or that they were additions of a later date than the original edifice, which is by no means improbable: but in buildings of this early date, it is not easy to fix the period of their erection, with any precision. The mouldings of the whole exterior front are quite in the manner of the early Saxon, being all imitated from the Roman ar-

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chitecture. The impost of the central window is composed of an astragal and cavetto, with a square fillet: those of the side windows are a cavetto and fillet: and in both, the fillet is detached from the cavetto by a singular angular groove or channel, which has a very good effect.

The principal dimensions are as follow:  
Central windows, each, high, seven feet seven inches; wide, from out to out, five feet five inches:

The rise of the arch is two feet six inches and a half:

The pier between them, wide, two feet two inches:

The lateral windows, high, five feet; and wide, four feet ten inches, from out to out:

The rise of the arch is nineteen inches and a half:

The double lights, one foot six inches wide; and four feet two inches high:

The pier between them, eight inches wide:

The opening of the window within, high, five feet five inches; and wide, six feet:—  
the arch rises only ten inches:

The smaller single window at the west end, high, five feet seven inches; and wide, three feet.



The room within does not appear to have been ever divided ; but it is so defaced by modern additions and repairs, that it is scarcely possible to speak with certainty on the subject. Its breadth within the walls is sixteen feet eight inches ; so that it appears to have been a sort of gallery. The wall is two feet nine inches thick. In the western gable there is a double-headed window, nearly of the same form with those in the front, but of smaller dimensions. What remains of the masonry without, is most singularly neat, and composed of the small stones used in general by the Saxon and Norman architects, with courses of nearly equal thickness throughout ; a nicety to which the later architects seem scarcely ever to have attended.

The angles of every part of the buildings are chamfered off, even to the exterior angles of the walls of the front ; and in the great central windows the chamfer is rounded, so as to give the jamb something of the appearance of a quarter column. It may be here observed, that in the inside front of the lateral windows, the arch above the little columns is left square ; which may confirm the suspicion that these decorations, which certainly are not of the style

of the rest of the building, were added at a later time.

No trace, I believe, remains, of the original designation of this building ; but I cannot help suspecting that it is more ancient than the Conquest, and perhaps a part of the royal palace inhabited by the Saxon and Danish sovereigns, who certainly resided occasionally in this town. Its vicinity to the wall, which now chokes up and obstructs its prospect and light, is no objection to this supposition, as the wall and Water-gate are much less ancient than this edifice.

Immediately adjoining to this very curious building, we come to another of almost equal antiquity, but in a very shattered state. This building forms the south-east angle of French-street, which runs parallel with the High or English Street, up to St. Michael's church. The south-west angle of this street is formed by a large and plain stone building, with a high pointed window over its door, which has much the appearance of a chapel. There is not, I believe, any certain memorial of its original destination ; but it was not improbably the chapel of an hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, but long before the dif-

solution annexed to the priory of St. Dionysius. The arched timber-work of the roof still subsists. It is now used as a warehouse.

Proceeding up this street (or northwards), the next object worthy notice is the free-school, founded by Edward VI, but many years after removed from Winkle-street to its present site, which was an ancient mansion known by the name of West-hall. The dining-room is a very handsome room, with a richly carved Gothic chimney-piece, and a row of windows behind a wooden arcade of a singular form. The ceiling is of stucco, in compartments. The whole of this room is at least as old as the reign of Henry VIII.

Nearly opposite to the school is the churchyard of the now destroyed church of St. John, whose parish is incorporated with that of St. Lawrence. The area of the church is still discernible, and the churchyard was probably formerly much more extensive than it now is; reaching quite to the High-street, along Broad-lane; as in digging on the premises occupied by a cork-cutter, forming the south angle of Broad-lane in the High-street, human bones have been discovered.

A little higher up is the remain of a very ancient building,\* which at least three centuries ago has undergone an alteration. This is apparent by the flat-headed arch, inserted into and partly breaking a very handsome plain semicircular one. The ground-floor of this building is a very large cellar now used for coals. Nearly opposite to this, are very old wooden buildings, called St. John's Hospital, in which are several doors with carvings in the spandrils of their flat-arched heads.† Being now arrived at St. Michael's-square, we will return back into Porter's-lane, and by it, enter Bugle-street,‡ which runs parallel to

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\* This building is called the Weigh-house, where probably merchandises were weighed, under the inspection of the mayor of the staple and the customer of the port; both for the ascertaining the amount of the customs, and preventing frauds or disputes between buyer and seller.

† Since this was written, these buildings are demolished, and their site is at present occupied by a handsome theatre.

‡ Bugle is the ancient name of the bull, and is much in use in this part of England. In Newport town in the Isle of Wight, the principal inn has a bull for its sign, and is called the Bugle Inn. The small hunting horn so much now in use in our army, under the name of the bugle, though at present made of metal, was without doubt, originally, simply a bull's horn.

French-street, and also terminates in St. Michael's-square.

The first thing observable here is a building whose front is in Porter's-lane, and whose long flank runs on the right hand (looking northward) up Bugle-street. This is a solid stone edifice, with a plain front, much less ancient than the three very singular semi-cylindrical stone buttresses in the side. These buttresses are well built, and appear to be constructed with a view to uncommon strength. It seems probable that this is one of the ancient warehouses of the great merchants of this place, famous of old for its commerce. It may here be observed, that in every part of the town there are vast stone vaults, most of them apparently of great antiquity, and con-

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Perhaps I may be pardoned for here observing, that one of the most ancient Welch musical instruments, called the Pib-corn or Pipe-horn, which is formed of a flute, with a mouth-piece not unlike that of the clarionet, inserted into a large horn which forms a trumpet-like termination to it, is still recorded by us in the favourite popular dance called the Hornpipe; and the sweetness of its tones have to this day maintained its use in Italy, under the name of Corno Inglese.

fructed when this place possessed almost a monopoly of the French wine trade.

The ground opposite to this edifice is only of late years built on, and was known by the name of "the Gravel." When we recollect that this is synonymous to The Beach, it seems to countenance a suspicion, that this part of the town was open to the sea until a late period.

Close adjoining to the singular building just mentioned, there is a long wall, in which are several doors and windows of different antiquity, apparently blocked up at different periods of repair. Among them is a small fragment of a very handsome Gothic window. This wall now encloses the play-ground of the school.

A little higher up on the left, and forming the angle with West-gate-street, is Bugle hall, of old the spacious residence of the earls of Southampton, till lately a very fine and ancient house, but destroyed a few years since by fire.

Almost opposite to it is an old timber and stuccoed house, with the plume of feathers, the cognizance of the princes of Wales, in its front.\*

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\* In Westgate-street, and very near the gate, on the north side, are premises still bearing the name of the Linen-hall and Tin-cellar. Tin appears to have been a

St. Michael's-square to which we are now again arrived, merits a particular description. It was formerly the fish-market, and was choked up by a building in its centre, where the market was held. It is observable, that the space between the Castle and St. Michael's church anciently united those shops most necessary to life; Simnel-street, Butcher-row, and the fish-market: a proof that the town first grew under the protection of the Castle.

To return to the square. On its western side, and directly fronting the church, is a very large and ancient house of timber and stucco. It consists of two floors, besides the garrets in its gables. Each story overhangs considerably, and the projections are ornamented with handsome cornices. Little pillars supporting light semi-arched ribs, run up the front of each

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very great article of commerce at Southampton, even so late as the reign of Henry VI, who once seized and sold to his own use all the tin lying at Southampton. See Cotton's Posthumous Works. The records of the town also bear evidence of the importance of the tin trade, which was so extensive as to have a separate office for the receipt of the duties payable on it. This office was held (say the records) "at the great house next to Holy Rood church." From the information of A. Hammond, esq.

story, forming the whole into regular compartments. There are four gables of different breadths, and corresponding to each is a large window; three of them with curved heads, and the fourth flat. The lower point of union of these gables has a long and handsome pendent ornament; and very flat arches run from pendent to pendent, in the spandrils of which broom pods seem to be carved, the favourite badge of the Plantagenets. The gables above have been modernised. At the north end of this front is a large wooden porch, with a singular projection of the next story over the door, supported by a very flat semi-arch. In this porch there is some rude carving. The interior of this house is modernised, but there remains in one of the great windows some curious and very old painted glass. Many of the panes have each a bird performing different offices and functions of human life, as soldiers, handicrafts, musicians, &c. On the ground-floor behind the house is a large room, now quite modern, but which tradition says was a chapel. As it stands north and south, it was more probably a great hall. The age of this very venerable and beautiful edifice can scarcely be less than four hundred years; and the



wood-work shows high antiquity; as it is, without rottenness, quite perished by age.

On the north side of the square is a mass of wooden houses, now very mean, but in which great marks of antiquity may yet be traced. One door-way with a highly pointed wooden arch is observable; and under a part of these are very capacious vaults.

On the south side of the square nothing occurs worthy notice, excepting a handsome plain semicircular arch, in a building in the narrow alley which runs from the square into French-street, and insulates the church.\*

The church itself, which forms the eastern side of the square, is a very curious one, and by much the most ancient of any in the town. The west front has a large window deprived of its tracery. On each side of this, the Saxon masonry of the original front is still discerni-

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\* This arch, together with a smaller arch to the west of it, were probably a part of the wool hall, which extended from them quite to Bugle-street. The low and ancient wooden-fronted houses were erected on its site, and still in the terrar of the town are called by the name of the Woollen-hall. They were all originally one large mansion. For this information I am indebted to A. Hammond, esq.

ble. In the eastern front the same masonry is also visible, together with a fragment of the little angular column which occurs so frequently in Saxon buildings, and a small morsel of a billeted moulding. The length of the church from east to west, and the breadth of the nave, are unaltered; but two large side ailes have been added, or rather the original ones have been taken down and enlarged. In the north aile are two handsome highly pointed windows. The centre east window is also very large and handsome, with tracery of rather a late style of Gothic, and fragments of extremely good painted glass. The tower, which rises from the centre of the church, is low, and quite plain. A very neat stone spire, of very pleasing proportion and considerable height, has been added within about sixty years.

The nave, with its side ailes, as far as the tower, is the only part of the church used at present for the ordinary divine service. It is separated from the more eastern part by an open screen of ancient Gothic, of very good design. The old Saxon columns have been, every other one, taken away; and handsome pointed arches, of considerable span, turned

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over the remaining ones. Their capitals have a small fluting on them, of a design common in that style of architecture.

The tower stands on four plain and strong semicircular arches, without any sort of ornament, except a very small impost moulding. The bells are rung on the ground, and the area of the tower now makes a singular sort of vestibule to the chancel, which is open to the side aisles by large arches, and divided from them below by open wooden screens. A considerable number of plain stalls still stands in the chancel, and many more have been removed, and now stand in other parts of the church. A handsome brass eagle desk, which belonged to the ancient choir, also remains. The choir probably extended under the tower, as far as the screen before mentioned.

In the northern chapel, which is parted from the side aisle by a beautiful open Gothic screen, is a handsome monument to the memory of the lord chancellor Wriothesley, and a large and costly standing chest, carved and inlaid, and stated by an inscription on its front, to have been given, with the books in it, by John Clungeon. The inscription is as follows:

“ John the Sonne of John Clungeon of this towne Alderman

“ Erected this presse and gave certain books who died anno 1646.”

The books are however now gone, and the surplises, &c, are kept in the chest.

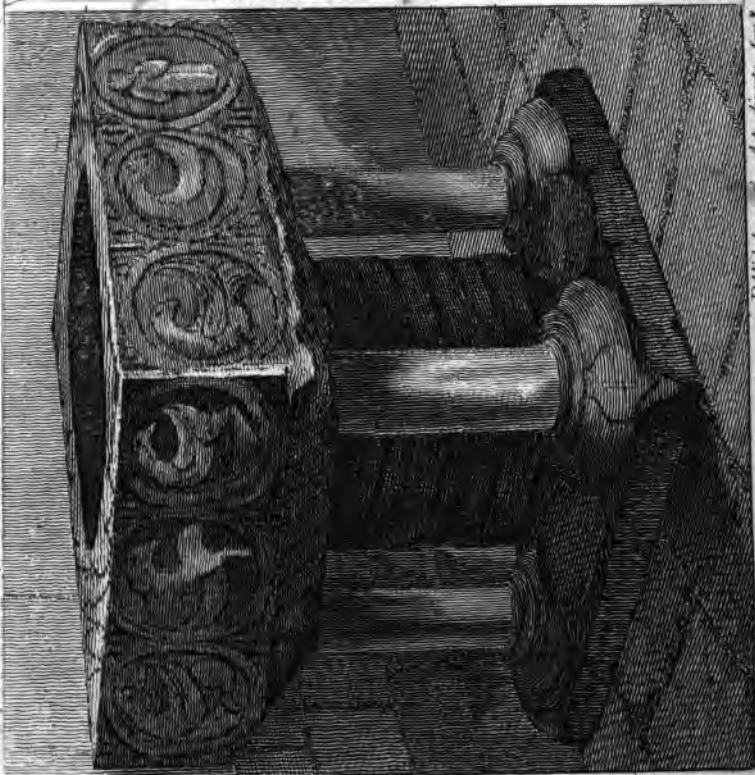
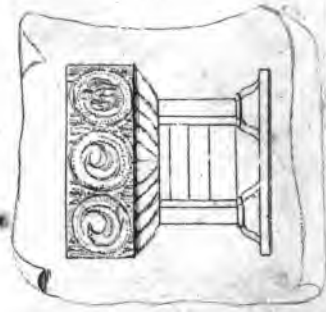
In the flank of the north window, opposite the tomb of Wriothesley, is a square sunk panel with a shield, and a singular monogram cut in relief in it. A monogram of the same sort occurs on a stone on the almshouses in St. Mary's churchyard. These are given in the plate of the title, and to them is added another, cut on a very rich Gothic stone chimæy-piece at Romsy. These monograms were evidently the marks of traders and merchants, and occur not unfrequently on the tradesmen's tokens. So much would not have been said on their subject, did they not illustrate a passage in that most curious poem called *Pierce the Ploughman's Creed*, and which Mr. Warton seems to have misunderstood. (See *History of English Poetry*, vol. i. p. 301.)\* The

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\* Mr. Warton, in his additions and corrections annexed to the third volume of the *History of English Poetry*, corrects the mistake here alluded to.

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P. 68/69

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author describing a magnificent church of the friars preachers, says,

“Wyde wyndowes ywrought ywriten ful thikke  
“Shynen with shapen sheldes to shewen aboute,  
“With merkes of merchauntes ymedeled betwene.”

In this description of a window adorned with memorials of benefactors, the “*merkes of merchauntes*” evidently mean monograms of this nature, used by those who had no right to bear arms, to commemorate their munificence: and as the houses of the mendicant orders were mostly built by general contribution, these marks were very characteristic of their convents. The abbeys of the several orders of monks, founded in general by the devotion of a monarch or some opulent baron, would for that reason have few armorial or other bearings in their windows, beside those of the founder and his family.

The southern chapel, which has a plain Gothic screen in front, and a window to the east, of an uncommon though late Gothic form, now contains the font; which is a most curious and highly ancient one, much resembling that in the cathedral of Winchester. It

consists of a block of black marble, three feet four inches square, and one foot six inches deep, supported in its centre by a cylinder of the same material, ornamented with horizontal rings, so as much to resemble a barrel; and at each angle by a plain pillar of white stone, of one foot six inches high, and about six inches in diameter. The whole stands on another marble block, three feet square, and about seven inches deep, out of which are cut bases for the small columns, consisting of a flat ring on a large round cushion. These rest on a plain square plinth of about three inches high. A plain leaf falls from the bases of the columns, on each angle of the plinth.

The top stone is excavated into a hemispherical basin, two feet six inches in diameter, round which runs a scroll of foliage, of very rude execution, but not bad design; and the angles are filled with an imitation of the ancient ornament now generally called the honey-suckle. A deep groove runs round the edge of the basin, to receive the cover; and the irons which locked it down yet remain.

In early times the font was shut with peculiar care, lest the consecrated water should be profaned, or stolen for magical purposes.

The sides of the block, of which three only are now visible, as the font stands against the wall, are each divided into three circular compartments, with a sort of winged monster in each, something like a gryphon; except one, which has an angel in a long robe of linen, covered with a shorter tunic. His hands are folded on his heart, and round his head is the nimbus or glory. Behind his shoulders are two wings, which reach to his feet. These sides are one foot one inch and a half deep; and the remaining four inches and a half of the thickness of the block, slope away to the central cylinder, in a sort of fluting or broad leaves, now much defaced. The workmanship of the whole is in the very rudest style of Saxon sculpture.

It is curious to observe the effect of time on the black marble of which this font is composed. A vein less hard than the rest runs through one front, and it is quite honey-combed by age, although it probably has always stood under cover.

Near this chapel is the south door of the church; which has a screen before it, with a neat wooden door-case, and Gothic capitals cut in the spandrels. In the wall of the tower

opposite this door, is a low ornamented Gothic arch for a tomb; but rubbish is accumulated about it, so as to hide the tomb-stone, if there is any.

Opposite the west door of St. Michael's church, and close by the porch of the large wooden house before described, a very narrow and winding alley, called Blue-anchor-lane, leads, with a quick descent, to the small post-ern before described in the survey of the wall. On each hand are ancient Saxon buildings. The late Blue-anchor alehouse has a good arch in it, and on the left hand we see the side wall of that edifice whose front in the town wall was before described. In this side wall is a flat-arched door, and above, a double window divided by a column, like those in the front; and near it, a projection of the wall, supported by plain square corbel stones, which contains the flue of a chimney. The inside of this building is well worth viewing. The access to it is by a great modern breach in the front of the arches in the town wall. When within it, we find that there has been a floor dividing it into two stories; to the upper one of which, the chimney just mentioned, belonged. This has a very neat fireplace, of excellent masonry,

adorned with a small column on each side, from which the mantle-piece rose in a flat arch. The funnel is carried up in a conical form, and the flue is cylindrical. The exterior dimensions of this edifice, which was very nearly square, are as follow :

The front to the sea, fifty-one feet three inches :

Front in Blue-anchor-lane, forty-eight feet nine inches.

Simnel-street, which leads from the Bridle-gate to the upper end of French-street, deserves notice for its name ; which is probably derived from the rich cake seasoned high with saffron, a favourite dainty of our ancestors, and not quite out of fashion in Shropshire ; and which was perhaps principally sold in this street.

In an obscure alehouse in this street, called the Queen Charlotte, is a room fitted up with handsome wainscot of the age of Elizabeth ; and framed in the wood-work over the chimney is a large upright stone tablet, on which is cut, in high relief, the following coat :

A chevron bordured between three shamrocks, two and one. Crest on a closed helmet in profile, a bunch of shamrocks :

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Motto on a scroll below the shield, "Post tenebras spero lucem :"

Close under the scroll, the initials W. L.

Below this, on the flat of the tablet, "Nullus reprehensor formidandus est amatori veritatis. 1579 :"

And on the moulding which runs round the whole tablet, "Sculptum Galvie in Hibernia."

The whole is in perfect preservation, and by no means ill cut. The letters are very neatly carved in relief, and the D is of uncommon if not singular form. These arms are borne by a family of the name of Lewis; and the initials seem to countenance a supposition, that this coat was placed here by some of that family. The bearing is also that of the Abdy family; but in the repetition of this coat on the outside of the Bar-gate, already mentioned, and which probably belonged to the same family, the colours are different from the bearing of Abdy.

From this street a labyrinth of winding and dirty alleys leads up to the site of the castle; which is the only remaining object of curiosity in the town. To describe it, we will return into the High-street, and go up Castle-lane,



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merely mentioned before in the survey of High-street. It is most probable that this street led to the principal entrance of the Castle. A small fragment of a circular tower is yet visible on the left-hand side of this street, but built up in a house; and the arched gateway was taken down in the memory of many persons now alive. The wall of enclosure is more visible on the right hand, where it passes in a curve line behind some new houses, and continues nearly entire till it meets the town wall. It is about six feet thick, and stands on the top of a high bank, with a deep ditch at its foot. This bank has been dug away, so as to show the manner of the foundation of the wall, which is on large rough flat pointed arches. This was probably done both to save materials, and to diminish the danger of cracks from unequal settlement. The wall on the left hand of the gate is nearly destroyed; it may however be traced to its junction with the town wall, near which point a part of the wall appears in the court of an old cottage, which has a round-arched window in it, and seems to have been a handsome building.

Near this spot, in the narrow street which leads from the Castle to Bridle-gate, an arched

gateway was destroyed about thirty years ago; and in the garden of the old house adjoining, there was a vaulted room of very considerable dimensions, which received light from the loops and windows mentioned in the survey of this part of the town wall. This room, by the account of an elderly bricklayer who assisted in its dilapidation, was groined, and adorned with handsome ribs with mouldings, and, as he told me, had much the appearance of a place of worship. The ribs and all the convertible stones were taken away, and the vault closed up, and so it at present remains.

The area of the Castle was of a form approaching to a semicircle, or rather a horse-shoe, of which the town wall to the sea formed the diameter. The keep stood on a very high artificial mount in the southern part of the area, and probably, as was generally the case, in the line of the wall. A small modern round tower has been built of the materials of the ancient one, which must have large, as well as "fair," to use the words of Leland.

The high mount and circular form of the keep, indicate an antiquity much higher than the time of Richard II, who probably only repaired and strengthened the

castle.\* The great beauty of the masonry in that part of the town wall which formed the enclosure of the castle towards the sea, and which, it may be observed, is built of a stone very different from the rest of the wall, indicates its having been restored in the reign of this monarch, when architecture had attained a very high perfection in this country.

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\* This conjecture is reduced nearly to a certainty by the following extracts, which I owe to the kindness of A. Hammond, esq.

1153. From a compromise between king Stephen and prince Henry, the bishop of Winchester was to give security for the delivery of the castle at Southampton to prince Henry, on the death of Stephen.—Carte.

1246. *Commune Villæ Sudhamtoniæ debet cclxx marcas, pro subtractione plurium consuetudinum pertinentium ad castram Sudhamtoniæ et de macremio, plumbo, et lapidibus ejusdem castræ prostrati venditis.*—Madox.

1340. Richard Talbot, of the Shrewsbury family, was governor of Southampton castle.

1377. In the first year of Richard II, the French attacked Southampton, but were soon repulsed by the earl of Arundel, governor of the town, who assembled the militia. To protect the harbour and town for the future, the king built a castle on an high raised mount.—Smollet.

To this account of the castle we have only to add, that a walk to the top of the keep will amply repay the trouble of the ascent. The beauty of the view is almost unrivalled ; and the town itself, which we have lately been viewing in detail, lies at the feet of the observer from this point as in a map, showing, better than from any other spot, the whole compass of the walls, the course of the streets, and the relative positions of the most remarkable buildings.

It might appear a negligent omission, if the church of St. Mary's, in the suburb, was entirely unmentioned ; but in truth, although

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These extracts leave scarcely a doubt that Southampton castle was one of those which was dismantled in the general destruction of fortresses at the end of the reign of king Stephen ; and the curious passage from Madox' proves that the dilapidations were carried to a great pitch. When, therefore, Richard II. (in order to secure the town from the repeated attacks of the French and others) restored the castle, he had probably such repairs to make, as were nearly equivalent to a new building ; and the current tradition, that he was the builder of the castle, is only false, inasmuch as it supposes, that no castle was existing at a more ancient period.

tradition reports it to have been the site of the original town, yet it at present contains no remnant of the antiquity to which it lays claim. The church has been rebuilt within a century on the old foundations, which still appear a few feet above the ground; and its spacious and well peopled church-yard does not contain a single object worthy of particular mention. The very large parsonage-house has the air of a melancholy manor-house of the era of king William, with long fash-windows and narrow piers.\*

From the church-yard, a road not very wide, and bordered on either hand by a deep and muddy ditch, leads to the ancient mill called the Chapel mill. In this road, inconvenient as it is, an annual fair is held on Trinity Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This fair is opened by the mayor and bailiffs, with much ceremony, on the preceding Saturday afternoon. The mayor erects a pole with a large glove fixed to the top of it, near the miller's house; and the

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\* In February, 1802, this parsonage-house was entirely destroyed by fire; and a smaller edifice, of very neat architecture, supplies its place.

bailiff then takes possession of the fair, as chief magistrate in its precinct during the fair, and invites the mayor and his suite to a collation in his tent. He appoints a guard of halberdiers, who keep the peace by day, and watch the fair by night. During the fair, no person can be arrested for debt within its precincts. On the Wednesday at noon, the mayor dissolves the fair, by taking down the pole and glove, or rather ordering it to be taken down ; which till lately was done by the young men of the town, who fired at it with single balls, till it was destroyed, or they were tired with the sport. Probably it formerly was a mark for the less dangerous dexterity of the young archers.

This fair was granted by one of the Henrys, but by which of them is not quite certain, to the town of Southampton, and William Geoffry, hermit of the hermitage of the Holy Trinity and Blessed Virgin Mary. The site of this hermitage is now the Chapel mill, which still has marks of antiquity about it ; though its enlargement, about sixty years since, has left but little of its ancient ornaments, except a flank of a door, and part of an arched window. These fragments, however, show that the style

of its architecture much resembled the chapel of St. Dionysius at Portswood. The miller's garden was the cemetery of the chapel, and bones are still dug up there. In digging near it, about thirty years since, for the purpose of building the Renown frigate, a skeleton and a ring were found.\*

From hence the walk to the Itchen ferry, at high water, is very beautiful, commanding a view of the opposite steep and woody shore, and enlivened with a multitude of vessels of different sizes, laid up or under repair. The little round building called the Cross-house, erected for the accommodation of passengers waiting for the boat, has marks of considerable antiquity, and is not an ugly edifice. In one of the quarters are the arms of Southampton, with the date only of 1634: but parts of the building seem to be of much earlier date. At this point, the ferrymen of the Itchen ferry do homage to the mayor and corporation, when-

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\* A large and curious silver ring was found about fifty years ago in the field opposite the miller's house. It is in the possession of Arthur Hammond, esq; and has been well engraved in the Gentleman's Magazine for November 1802, but I cannot pretend to explain the inscription on it.

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ever the perambulation of the boundaries of the town is performed ; and in return for the permission of landing on the demesne of the town, engage at all times to carry over gratis the burgeses and their families.

From this point, a cauffey of near half a mile long, planted with trees, leads to the platform and south gate. This walk, which is called the Beach, commands in its whole length a view of the Southampton water, closed by the Isle of Wight ; and it is not easy to imagine a more beautiful or interesting water scene. The view of the town is also pretty, and the new church of All Saints appears from hence to great advantage. It is to be lamented, that the marshy meadow close to the cauffey is not drained and improved. The salubrity of the town, and above all of the suburb of St. Mary's, calls loudly for it ; and the ground in an enclosed or even a drier state, would amply repay the expense ; but contested rights of common have (in this as in a thousand other instances) hitherto prevented that being done, which every body separately approves.

Before I at the Water gate dismiss the reader, who may have had the patience to accompany me through the narrow and dirty paths,



and into the holes and corners, to which I have led him, I cannot forbear making an observation on the peculiar character of the antiquities we have been surveying. Among the many specimens of the round-arched mode of building, commonly called Saxon, not a single piece of carving exists, except the small columns within the window in the edifice in Porter's-lane, and a few leaves just sketched on the capitals of the little pillars in the building covered by the arches in the wall near West-gate; nor an ornamented moulding, except a small fragment of billeted fascia, at the east end of St. Michael's church. The carved members of imposts and arches, so profusely used by the Normans, and particularly their favourite zigzag, do not appear ever to have existed in any of the buildings now extant in the town; and a great number of the arches, both of the doors and windows, of incontestably high antiquity, are flatter than a semicircle; some being segments of circles, and some semi-ellipses, The mouldings of their imposts and fascias are also in exact imitation of the Roman architecture, having very well formed quarter-rounds and cavettos. From these considerations I cannot but be led to suspect, that they are of

an antiquity considerably greater than the Norman era ; and I hope that those antiquaries who may differ from me in opinion, will at least acquit me of having taken it up without some grounds.

I HAD here purposed to take my leave of those readers who have thus far borne me company ; as my first intention was simply to have noticed and described those objects which now exist, worthy the attention of the curious. But having insensibly been led into several observations which rather pass the line I had first laid down, I shall trespass yet farther on the patience of my companion, and say a few words on the ancient situation of the town of Southampton, and its gradual removal from its original to its present site. In a discussion of this sort, much must rest on conjecture ; yet I trust that my ideas will be not unsupported by the testimony of monuments still subsisting.

That the Romans had an establishment of considerable consequence on the spot in the vicinity of this town now known by the name of Bittern, is incontestably proved by the remains of their walls yet existing, and the numerous fragments of antiquity lately brought

to light in forming the road to the new bridge ; and there seems very little doubt that this was the ancient Clausentum.\* The hamlet of Northam, which stands directly opposite to Bittern, on the southern bank of the Itchen, was probably in some degree inhabited at the same period ; as coins are said to have been found there. It is probable that the mouth of the Itchen was at that time, and long afterwards, much wider than it now is, and that the water flowed in nearly a straight line from Northam to St. Mary's churchyard, and from thence to the present south gate, in a curve, not far from the line of the town wall, covering the whole Marsh, and the site of the buildings on the same level now called Orchard-lane, Spring-gardens, &c. Nothing, indeed, but artificial embankments, prevents the sea, at high water, from inundating these places at the present day.

In this line, the distance from Northam to St. Mary's is not great ; and the springs of Houndwell would naturally draw the inhabitants of Northam from a spot without water to one so well supplied with that most necessa-

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\* A further account of Bittern is given in the appendix.

ry article, and at least equally well situated for fishing, or other nautical occupations. This probably was the state of things, until the Saxon conquerors of the kingdom, having formed permanent establishments in the country from which they had nearly swept its ancient inhabitants, began to wage perpetual intestine wars, and of course to fortify the most important posts, after the manner of their own nation. The establishments of the Romans, which seem to have been seated in general in low situations, and near streams, did not at all suit with the northern system of fortresses; which, particularly in the earliest times, affected elevated sites, with high towers, secured from surprise, by the view they commanded of the country around them; and from assault, by the steep ascent of the natural or artificial mount on which they were founded. The peculiar advantages of the narrow and rather high point of land on which Southampton now stands, commanding at once the Itchen and Test, and very easily fortified on the land side, could not escape their notice; and from the high circular hill on which the keep of the castle formerly stood, and the curved line of its yet remaining wall, we have probable grounds

for supposing it to be among the most ancient of the Saxon castles. But besides the present existing fortifications, there is great reason to suspect that the northern ditch of the town, filled up within the memory of man, and of uncommon breadth and depth, was continued quite across, till it met the Itchen, and completely insulated the castle and present town. The antiquity of the Bar-gate, whose central round arch is evidently much older than any of the other gates of the town, is no small confirmation of this supposition; as the walls and gates, with the exception of the Bar-gate, appear to have been built at once, and are very uniform in their structure, some small parts only excepted, which we shall consider more particularly presently.

It is, however, immaterial to the view of the progressive augmentation of the present town, whether this conjecture, relative to the Bar-gate and its ditch, be founded or not; as it is equally certain, under either supposition, that the castle would very soon form a town around itself; both by the habitations of those who were dependent on it as a fortress, and those who sought protection under its wings, from the multiplied dangers of that period of uncea-

ing war and pillage. The very ancient church of St. Michael was probably founded soon after the castle, and was, as it now is, the manerial church of the town: and it is worthy of remark, that the streets immediately under the castle, are proved, by their names, to have been the original markets of the infant town; and that all the most curious remains of antiquity stretch along the shore of the Southampton water, where the castle protected them on the land side, and the sea rendered attack not very easy on any other.

The appearance of the very interesting building in Porters'-lane, and the singular square house now making part of the wall near Blue-anchor-lane, is that of houses for the habitation of secular persons of consequence; as neither of them, particularly the former, has the least appearance of a conventual edifice; and it is not at all improbable, that the Saxon kings might have a palace on the shore, commanding, as the building in Porters'-lane did, until the town wall was erected, a beautiful view of the sea, with a southern exposition, and a sheltered situation. The history of Canute's rebuke to the impious flattery of his courtiers, and which the most authentic historians state to have

taken place at Southampton, proves that the town was of consequence in his time; and it is much more probable that the regal chair was placed on the sandy shore of the Southampton river, than in the black and oozy bed of the Itchen at Northam, where some have fixed the scene of this striking and characteristic story.

The very ancient hospital of God's-house, whose round-arched gate, and very obtusely pointed double-headed window over it, place its erection early in the twelfth century; was probably built before the existence of the present wall, which makes an odd and irregular curve outwards, seemingly with a view to leave a passage, though a narrow one, before the church, which once had a door and porch projecting into the street.

But independent of all conjecture, there exists an indisputable proof of the early consequence of the present town of Southampton. Henry II, in a charter given by Dugdale in his *Monasticon* (vol. ii. p. 109), gives to the priory of St. Dionysius, the churches of St. Michael, Holy Rood, St. Lawrence, and All Saints, in the following words:

“Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Deo et  
“Ecclesiæ Sancti Dionysii juxta Hamtonam,  
“&c. Capellas meas quas habebam infra  
“Burgum de Hamptona, &c. scilicet Capellam  
“Sancti Michaelis, et Cap. Sanctæ Crucis,  
“et Cap. Sancti Laurentii, et Cap. Omnium  
“Sanctorum. Quare volo, &c.”

This charter fully proves that the four present churches were in existence so early as the reign of Henry II, nor are they spoken of at all as new erections, but as having been some time in the gift of the crown; “quas habebam.” It may also be remarked, that they are all called “Capellæ,” *Chapels*; St. Mary’s being probably considered as the “Ecclesia,” or *Church*, within whose parish they were erected. St. Michael’s is also named first, as having then, as it now has, the precedence over the rest.

We cannot desire fuller proof, that the town was then nearly or quite as large as it now is.

With respect to the date of the building of the wall as we now see it, difficulties arise in my mind. It is certain, that the northern, eastern, and that part of the southern wall west of the Water-gate, bear every mark of uniform regularity in their structure;



and the gates of the town are apparently of the same date with the walls, and much resemble each other in the massy flat form of their pointed arches, which rise at an angle from their piers, being struck from centres below the level of their spring; a mode of construction used about the time of Edward II; yet the remains of semicircular towers still visible on attentive inspection of the Bargate, and which flanked its round arch, very much resembling, in form and mode of building, the towers of the north and east wall, lead me to suspect, that the wall, on the land side at least, is of higher antiquity than the time of the Edwards, and that the present gates were built later than the erection of the wall. The very singular situation of the Water-gate, which retires thirty feet behind the line of the eastern part of the south wall; and the odd position of the south gate, at the very angle of the wall; seem to indicate that these gates were not of the original design.

From the south-west angle of the wall quite to the Bridle-gate, which was close to the ballium of the castle, the whole wall is a mass of irregular and almost inexplicable construction. I cannot help being suspicious, that this

side of the town, protected as it was by the castle, and covered by the sea, was not at all; or very slightly, fortified, until the fatal experience of the sack of the town, by the French invaders, had proved that some further defence was necessary. This conjecture receives considerable strength from the appellation of "the Gravel," mentioned before to have been given to the lower end of Bugle-street, and which can scarcely be referred to any other origin, but this part of the town having been long open to the sea, and free from buildings. It may also be observed, that both French and Bugle streets now terminate most awkwardly against the wall, which comes so near as to leave only a very narrow lane of communication between them, and seems to have been erected long after these streets were built and inhabited.

At this part I conceive the invaders to have attacked and entered the town; and the buildings incorporated in the wall near West-gate and Bridle-gate, were perhaps so far ruined by their fires, as to be deserted by their inhabitants, and relinquished by them for the purpose of fortifying this vulnerable part of the town. Although, at this distance of time, no great

streets can be laid on the appearance of walls so long exposed to the weather, yet it is certain, that the eastern wall of the very ancient edifice forming part of the town wall and flanking Blue-anchor-lane, has very much the appearance of having been reddened by violent fire.

The line of wall south of the West-gate is irregular in its construction; and the wall between West and Bridle gates, which has been already described, bears evident marks of having been built in the most hasty manner, and with the greatest economy of materials; which seems the only way of accounting for the raising the parapet on those singular arches we now see, and the forming the wall of old fronts of edifices full of apertures, which must of necessity weaken walls even without them not very thick or solid. This wall, in its present form, I conceive to have been built about that period, when the old historians state Richard II. to have fortified the town, and built the castle; which he probably repaired and strengthened, but which evidently had been built several centuries before his time.

Whatever may be the opinion of different persons, respecting the age of the several parts of the town and its walls already mentioned, one thing is indisputably certain, that the town was not removed to its present site, as has been asserted by Leland, and after him by Grose in his Antiquities, in consequence of the destruction of the old town at St. Mary's, by the French or Genoese, in the year 1338. Indeed, the roll of parliament quoted by Grose, ordering the town to be fortified in the very next year, is a full proof of itself that the disaster happened to the present town; as it would have been impossible for the inhabitants, ruined by pillage and fire, in that space of time to have built a large town from the ground, on a new site; whereas the repairs of a place which had suffered, however severely, from plunder and conflagration, are done with much less expense, and in a very short period. It is, however, highly probable, that the old town of St. Mary's, never very considerable, and which would naturally decline in proportion to the increase of the new town, being totally destitute of defence, suffered yet more severely than Southampton itself; and its destruction might be much accelerated by this

disaster ; as few would rebuild their houses without the walls, who could by any means find habitations within them.

From this period to the present time, the history of the town as a fortified place, may be comprised in a few words. Edward VI. speaks of repairs done to the walls by the citizens for his reception ; and from his time to the present day, they have probably never been touched but for their destruction. The increasing strength of the nation, and yet more the augmented size of ships of war, now too large to enter with safety those rivers and creeks, which formerly were the most secure havens, have combined to insure from attack the ancient ports of this country ; and the walls of our cities are, by a felicity on which every Englishman will reflect with gratitude and respect, rendered merely ornaments to those towns where every house is a castle to its owner, fenced by laws stronger than the brazen walls of Merlin. That this glorious bulwark may be also "ære perennius," is a wish in which all, I trust, will join, but the antiquary with peculiar feeling, who views it not merely as a present impregnable guard, but as the venerable work of his forefathers.

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**APPENDIX.**

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ACCOUNT  
OF AN  
***ANCIENT BUILDING***  
IN  
SOUTHAMPTON.



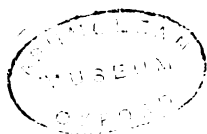
*By Sir H. C. ENGLEFIELD, Bart. F. R. S. & V. P. A. S.*



Read before the Society of Antiquaries of London, April 16, 1801.

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ACCOUNT  
OF AN  
*ANCIENT BUILDING*

In SOUTHAMPTON, &c.

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**T**HE building, of which I have now the honour to lay before the Society the measured drawings, is situated in the southern part of the town of Southampton, in a narrow street called Porters'-lane, not far from the Water-gate at the bottom of the High-street.

That it has hitherto escaped the notice of the curious, is probably owing to its present very confined situation. The street in which it stands is barely wide enough to admit a cart, and is generally full of carriages of burthen; and a footpath has been gained out of the ground-floor of warehouses on the opposite side of the way, which forms an open gallery, but so low, that from it a passenger can only see the lower part of the building in question; which is so

defaced by modern openings for doors and windows, as to excite in the inattentive passer by, no curiosity for a further inspection. The whole of the building is now converted into stables below, and haylofts above; and of so difficult and dirty access, that it is not an easy matter to take either measures or drawings of it.

Although its present site is so confined, at the period of its erection it enjoyed an open and beautiful view of the Southampton river and opposite shore; as the town wall, which at present runs parallel with its front, is evidently of a date very much more modern; and the large windows seem calculated for the full enjoyment both of the air and southern sun, to which it is directly exposed.

No part of the present remains has the appearance either of having been constructed for religious purposes, or for those of defence; nor is there any trace of a religious establishment having at any period existed in this part of the town; the building was therefore, probably, constructed for a dwelling-house, and its size and magnificence may justly entitle it to the name of a palace.

The front extends one hundred and eleven feet, and, as the angles of the wall are in some parts perfect at each end, it is certain that this was the original extent of the front of the building. The present height from the ground to the top of the wall is seventeen feet. There is reason to think that the wall never was much, if at all, higher; but it is almost certain that the bottom of the building is buried at least two feet, as the jamb of the ancient flat-arched door is now only four feet six inches above the pavement, which is much too low for the common purposes of life. The elevation is, however, from the present level of the street.

At ten feet from the ground runs a fascia, which divides the external front into two stories. In the lower story are the remains of two ancient doors, irregularly placed; of these, however, one does not seem coeval with the original building.

Above the fascia the wall rises seven feet, and, with the exception of a small window at the west end, it is perfectly regular in its design, and the distances and openings of the windows.

Three magnificent windows occupy the centre of the front. Of these, two only now remain; but as the design is totally irregular if a third be not supposed, and perfectly regular if it be, and as triple openings were almost constantly used in our ancient buildings, there can be no doubt that there were originally three windows.

The opening of these windows is, in front, seven feet seven inches high, and five feet five inches wide, and the pier, which divides them, is two feet two inches broad; their arched head is very little flatter than a semi-circle. A very neat moulding ranges over the arches. The angle of the wall is rounded off, so as almost to have the appearance of a quarter column. Ten inches and a half from the front, the wall breaks in, six inches, and reduces the opening of the real window to four feet four inches wide, and seven feet one inch high.

The bottom of these windows is built up, so that the exact termination of them is not easily ascertained. They, however, certainly descend two feet below the general line of the fascia before mentioned.



The interior face of these windows is quite plain, except that the angle, like the exterior ones, is chamfered off.

At nine feet from the exterior angles of these windows, are two others, one on each side. These windows are four feet ten inches wide from out to out, and five feet high; and their bottom rests on the fascia. They are covered by a very flat elliptical arch, whose rise is only one foot seven inches and a half. The arch springs from a plain impost, and a moulding of the same design ranges round each arch. These windows are divided into two lights, as was usual in the Saxon and Norman buildings. These lights are four feet high, and one foot six inches wide, in the clear. All the angles of these windows are neatly chamfered off. The decoration of the interior of these windows is very singular; a very neat column, with a regular base and a capital adorned with leaves, and surmounted with a short cornice or impost, adorns each angle. These columns are excavated as it were out of the angle, and do not project beyond the faces of the wall. The whole air and proportion of these columns, are more like that of the early Gothic, than the Nor-

man style; and the little rib which runs down the shaft is almost peculiar to the early Gothic. It is also observable, that the very flat arch which covers the window within, and which only rises ten inches on an opening of six feet, is the only part of the building which has not its angle chamfered off. These circumstances lead to a doubt whether this decoration, so different in style from the rest of the building, may not have been an addition at a period later than the original edifice. If this part is coeval with the rest, the building itself must be esteemed of the age of Henry I. or thereabouts; although, from every other part of it, I should have been led to suppose it at least as old as the Conquest, if not considerably more ancient.

At eleven feet from these windows, are two others, exactly similar, except that the eastern window has a double impost, owing probably to that want of accuracy in execution, of which examples so frequently occur in ancient structures. At ten feet from the eastern window is the eastern angle of the building. At fourteen feet from the western window is a narrow window, three feet wide and about six feet high, with a semicircular head; and three feet beyond it, is the western angle of the building.

Both the eastern and western angles of the wall are regularly chamfered off in the same manner with the angles of the windows. This is, as far as I can recollect, quite singular.

The masonry of every part of the front now remaining, is of peculiar neatness, and the stones are cut to a size nearly similar to each other, and very small. They are laid in regular and unbroken courses. This sort of accuracy is almost peculiar to the Saxon and early Norman architecture.

The front wall is two feet nine inches in thickness. At sixteen feet eight inches within it is a wall, which, though much ruined, appears to be the original one. There is not the least trace of any partition wall, and the whole space within was probably one large hall or gallery of about one hundred and five feet long, by sixteen feet eight inches wide. The eastern gable is completely demolished, and replaced by houses. In the western gable is a double-headed window, much defaced, but of a design similar to those already described, though rather smaller: its bottom was nearly level with the top of the front wall. It is not easy to decide whether there originally was a floor in the building; but, from the circum-

stance of the central windows descending two feet lower than the lateral ones, I am inclined to think that there was, and that these windows opened quite down to it, forming a sort of open portico towards the sea. For whatever purpose this edifice was designed, its whole style and disposition differ so materially from any other with which I am acquainted, that I cannot but consider it as an object of considerable curiosity. If, as I suppose, it was a dwelling or palace, it is among the few remains yet existing of the habitations of our ancestors, distinct from monastic or castellated mansions. Perhaps I indulge but a fond conjecture, when I consider it as possibly the hall from which Canute, surrounded by his courtiers, viewed the rising tide; and from whence he descended to the beach, according to that most interesting narrative of our old historians, to repress, by a striking and impressive lesson, their impious flattery.

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ACCOUNT  
OF  
*ANTIQUITIES*  
DISCOVERED AT THE  
**ANCIENT ROMAN STATION,**  
*CLAUSENTUM (now BITTERN),*  
Near Southampton;  
In a Letter to the Conductor of the Hampshire Repository:  
WITH  
*ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS,*  
RELATING TO SOME RECENT DISCOVERIES.

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By Sir H. C. ENGLEFIELD, Bart.

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ACCOUNT  
OF  
*ANTIQUITIES*  
DISCOVERED  
At CLAUSENTUM, &c.

*To the Conductor of the Hampshire Repository.*

Southampton, Jan. 1800.

DEAR SIR,

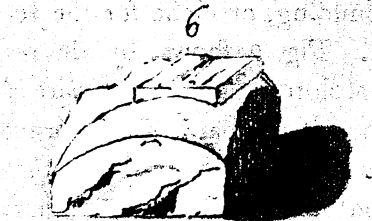
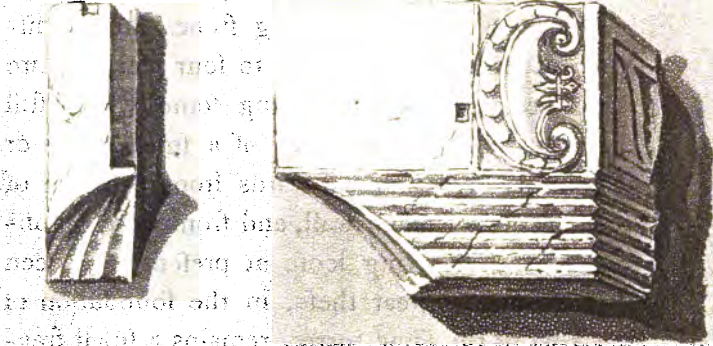
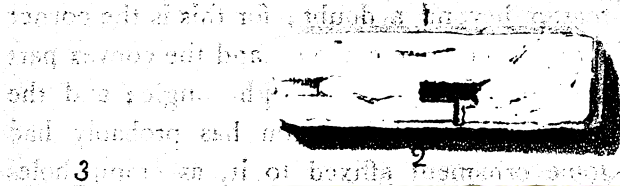
IN compliance with your wish I send you the drawings I have made of the antiquities now existing at Bittern, and such few observations on them as I have been able to make.

It does not appear to me that any stones have been discovered that ever formed part of a column or semi-column. Those which have been taken for semi-columns, one of which is given in the plate, fig. 5, are evidently parts of the coping of some large edifice; for their curve is reversed, and dies away against the shoulder like a cima. But fig. 6 puts the

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matter beyond a doubt; for this is the corner stone of the same coping; and the convex part goes off two ways at a right angle; and the square die at their union has probably had some ornament affixed to it, as cramp holes appear in it. The coping stones are of different lengths, from three to four feet, and are twelve in number, including some which still remain in the foundation of a small turret or bastion projecting outwards from the line of the eastern Roman wall, and from which foundation those lying loose at present have been lately dug. Near these, in the foundation of a part of the same turret, remains a small fragment of a very mutilated cornice, fig. 4, which probably belonged to the small edifice next mentioned.

With these stones lies the one figured 1, 2, and 3. This formed half the front of some small projecting building, or niche for the reception of a statue. Fig. 2 shows, by the return of the fluted architrave, and some part of an ornament on the frieze, that it was a corner stone. The curvature of the niche proves that it was half the frontispiece. The central part of the frieze is excavated to receive a thin slab, probably of marble, with an inscription. This

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was fastened by cramps, the holes of which are visible in fig. 2 and 3, and from one of which I took a piece of lead which had fastened the iron. The top of the stone, fig. 1, has, besides the cramp hole in front, a larger towards the back, which fixed it to the wall; and a deeper hole, which either was a lewis hole for raising it, or served to connect it by a pin or tenon with the cornice. Fig 3, the end view of the stone, shows the depth of the hollowed part of the frieze where the tablet was placed. The sculpture of this stone is not very bad: the lunated shield often occurs on sepulchral stones. The flutings or grooves in the architrave, which die away against the niche, are of a singular and very corrupt taste. The niche was formed into a shell; which is an ornament, I believe, only used in the later ages. Probably this building, for whatever use intended, may be of the age of Aurelian; an inscription to whose honour I shall presently mention.

Fig 7 is as exact a copy as I could make of an inscription which was dug up some time since, and is now preserved in the farm house at Bittern. The stone does not appear to have been squared, or even regularly cut, except on the face on which the inscription is

engraved; yet, from its upright form, it does not seem adapted to have been part of a wall. It evidently never was wider than it is, not probably much higher. The inscription is in letter of tolerably good form, and, except the last word, which is much effaced, probably by the point of the pickaxe that discovered it, is perfectly legible. This last word by accurate inspection may still be traced, and the inscription is as follows. IMP CAES LVCIO DOMITIO AVRELIANO. In the drawing I have been particularly attentive to mark the small remains of the connected letters AVR and EL that it may be seen how far this reading is justified. There can however be very little doubt respecting the word, when it is considered that the only person who assumed the purple with the names of Lucius Domitius, was an Egyptian usurper, of the name of Lucius Domitius Domitian, in the time of Dioclesian, who for two or three years maintained his rebellion at Alexandria. It is utterly improbable that such a usurper should have been commemorated in this remote island.

On the beach lies a very rude capital, which was worked into the Roman west wall. The leaves are just marked out, and the whole is so

very bad, both in design and execution, that I am much in doubt whether it is not some Saxon capital stuck in to mend a breach in the wall, in the period when this ancient station was a castellated mansion.

In the farm house is another small stone, which seems to have had four letters cut on it. I only mention it to say, that it is totally, and, I believe, irrecoverably illegible.

The Roman wall itself is singular in its construction. Its height cannot be ascertained; its thickness is about nine feet, and its materials flint, faced very roughly with square small stones, and a bending course of large flat bricks running through its interior part; but it is extraordinary that it has no foundation whatever, but is literally set down on the surface of the ground, and is therefore undermined by the waters of the Itchen, which only reach it at spring tides. A large bank of earth is thrown up against it on the inner side; and, in the only place where I have been able to examine its interior construction, it seems as if, at a distance of about nine feet within the outer wall, another wall of about two feet thick has been erected, seemingly as a fort of strengthening to the rampart of earth. Of

this however I do not speak with certainty.

Within the area of the ancient wall, the remains of two very coarse pavements, or rather plaister floors, are visible: one in the bank to the left of the new road, which has been in part washed away by the Itchen; the other in the ditch to the right of the road, about midway between the two walls. In digging very lately in the field, a fragment of plaister was thrown up, painted with a durable red colour, with a narrow white stripe on it. It seems not unworthy of remark, that the whole soil, as well within the wall as between the wall and outer ditch marked in your *Plan*, is full, not only of fragments of bricks and tiles of various forms, but of small pieces of that beautiful earthen ware, the colour, polish, and grain of which when broken, resemble fine sealing wax more than any substance I know of. The ditches dug through these fields for the new road have afforded me near a hundred pieces of this ware; some of them plain, some embossed with animals, masks, thyrsi, lyres, ears of corn, and poppies. As this ware is not uncommonly found in Roman stations in this country, and more perfect specimens than any of mine have been engraved, I have not



sent you any drawings of them. The subjects appear to be nearly similar in all that have been found, and are evidently of a mystic tendency. An ornament at the top of the embossed part, like a deep festooned fringe with tassels between each festoon, is almost universal in them. Those fragments that are plain appear to be of forms not much adapted to the uses of common life, being mostly dishes from 6 to 10 inches diameter, with a low upright rim, and standing on a small foot, not unlike old-fashioned silver salvers. It has been therefore imagined that these were all of them sacred utensils, and probably imported into this country for the purpose of sacrifice. One of the fragments in my possession has been perforated with very neat radiated holes, in regular order, so as to serve as a cullender. These holes have been drilled after the vessel was baked. A few fragments have occurred of a fine black ware, nearly as thin as Wedgwood's ware, and covered with a metallic lustre; this is perhaps owing to long lying under ground. Fragments of vases, of a coarse earth, not finer than our garden pots, are pretty common; and some of these appear to have been of very considerable size. The

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largest were red, some others of a dirty brown, like unbaked clay. Those in which ashes and coins have been found were of the latter sort. One of these, the fragments of which are now in the possession of Mr. Waring, the proprietor of Bittern, presented, when found, a most singular appearance. The vessel containing the bones and ashes, was enclosed within another which nearly fitted it, and whose mouth was so narrow as by no means to have admitted it in its hardened state: of this Mr. Waring assured me from his own inspection. The fragments which I saw are now so mutilated, as not to allow means of ascertaining the fact by measurement of the diameters of the vessels or their mouths; but both of them bear marks of the potter's lathe, both within and without, and therefore must have been separately made. Probably the outer vessel must have been originally broken, and then its parts placed round the inner one when buried, by way of security from injury.

Several ivory or bone pins were found in the same field, such as Sir Christopher Wren mentions having discovered in digging the foundation of St. Paul's. These are from three to four inches in length, with blunt

points and round heads, and were probably used for fastening the shrouds in which bodies were buried.

A fine and perfect glass urn was also found, but it has been unfortunately destroyed.

I cannot close this subject without taking some notice of the more modern remains extant on this curious spot, particularly as they probably will not exist much longer in their present state. The farm house, though very old, is built in the ruined walls of a stately Saxon or Norman edifice. Some columns half buried, but of very neat work, and parts of two ornamented round-headed windows, subsist at the west end of the house; and in the west front of the barn are four windows,\* of peculiarly excellent masonry, and very uncommon form. The part of the gateway, yet subsisting, is probably of the same date, and equally good work.

Few spots can be found more interesting, either to an antiquary or a painter, than Bittern in its present state. From the Roman wall we see the Saxon remains mingled with

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\* This barn has lately been taken down.

those of the 15th century. On the opposite shore is the old brick mansion of Northam, with its elegant fluted chimnies. A little further, on the east, the white gable of St. Dionysius's ruined chapel attracts the eye; while the spires and towers of the venerable Southampton, full of curious and undescribed\* remains of antiquity, of almost every date, from the earliest Saxon to the age of James the First, form a distance to the west.

The sweeps of the Itchen, with their bold shores covered with hanging woods of noble oaks, present on every side scenes of unrivalled beauty; and the name of Bevis Mount unites the recollection of an old, and perhaps fabulous, British hero, with that of a man whose courage and adventures were scarcely less romantic than those of the most famous Paladins, and who, to these high qualities, added a refined taste for elegant art and polite literature. What Englishman can look without respect on the shades where the Earl of Peterborough walked with Arbuthnot and Pope! Your Hampshire readers will, I trust, forgive me, if

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\* This was written before the publication of the "Walk through Southampton."

I add, with peculiar and personal interest, that this classical spot has not long since been haunted by another poet.

I hope, Sir, you will excuse a digression from the principal object of this letter, which has been suggested by the sensations I have experienced in the many visits I have paid to this interesting spot; and believe me

Yours, &c.

**H. C. ENGLEFIELD.**

## ADDITIONAL DISCOVERIES

*MADE AT BITTERN,*

In 1804 and 1805.



DURING the course of the late summer, considerable discoveries have been made at Bittern, by the present proprietor, Henry Simpson, esq; who has with laudable care preserved every fragment of antiquity brought to light in the course of the excavations made by him for various purposes of improvement: and to the politeness of that gentleman, and the observations made on the spot by my friend Dr. Latham, of Romsey, I am indebted for the information now added to my former account of Bittern.

The whole of the ground was full of fragments of the same fine red pottery already described, but nothing particularly worthy of no-

tice among them occurred, excepting one fragment of a large shallow vessel, which had a perforation in its side, ornamented externally with a lion's head, of coarse work, which seems to have served for a spout. On the bottom of many of the fragments were impressed names, probably of the makers; of these Dr. Latham sent me the following: CRESCENI; SEVERI; MALIVRN; AMATICICI; SACRI-OF; LVPIM; AESFIVINA; CVFF; ACOM; LVPPA; CEN...; MACIOF; DOECA; EPPN; OF-SAB; ADIECTIM; OF-NIGRI. And on the side of one large fragment, representing a stag hunt, is the word ADVOCISI, in a larger and fairer letter than the other stamps.

Several coins were found, mostly of the lower empire, but none which appear to be curious or rare.

On the north side of the new road, and nearly half way between the wall and the bridge, a very considerable number of skeletons was found, not less than fifty. They were laid east and west, and had apparently been buried in coffins of wood fastened with iron nails, of which a great many were found with small portions of wood adhering to them.

It is remarkable that all the teeth in every one of the jaws were quite perfect, a circumstance which seems to indicate that the bodies were of young men, probably of soldiers, slain in some engagement; evidently, however, by the mode of sepulture, at a period later than the Roman inhabitancy of the spot.

Just within the outer fosse, and a little south of the road, a hollow has been found, which seems to have been either a well or a small winding staircase. Within the inner fosse another well has been discovered, about two feet and a half in diameter. When found, it was empty to about eight feet deep; in it was a human skeleton, under the neck of which was a large stone with a hole in it. This circumstance renders it probable, that the person, whose remains were thus found, had been murdered by drowning in the well, with a stone fastened to the neck.

The well has since been cleared out to the depth of ten or twelve feet; and in it were found two ancient iron keys, much corroded; and a perfect metal jug, holding three pints, and nearly of the form of an old-fashioned ewer. Its form does not induce me to suppose it Roman.



The most material discoveries, however, were made by Mr. Simpson in the course of leveling and filling the inner fosse, north of the road, for the purpose of making a kitchen garden. The whole of the ancient eastern wall has by this means been traced. It terminated to the north in a round tower of solid masonry. This tower was about eighteen feet in diameter; and Mr. Simpson has discovered traces of a similar tower at the southern extremity of the wall. These two towers were probably Roman, and parts of the original wall; but at the distance of about seventy-eight feet from the northern tower, another semicircular tower or buttress was discovered, of twenty-four feet in diameter; whose foundations were composed of very large stones, taken from some more ancient building. Several of these were similar to those which were described in my former paper, and which I have supposed to be coping stones. Several fragments of different cornices were also found; one of them with the mouldings enriched in no contemptible taste.

A rude base of a column was also discovered, and many stones with inscriptions, some nearly illegible, others very fair. Of

these the most worthy of notice is a very perfect small altar, dedicated to the goddess Ancaſta; a deity hitherto unknown to antiquaries, and therefore of conſiderable curioſity. It is likely that ſhe was ſome local divinity or tutelary nymph, but the name does not lead to a probable ſurmiſe to what country ſhe belonged. It would be too bold a conjecture to ſuppoſe, from the firſt ſyllable, that ſhe was connected with the river An or Ant, of which we have ſpoken in the beginning of this work: but it may not, poſſibly, be foreign from the ſubject to obſerve, that the Gauliſh and Britiſh goddess of victory was called Andate or Andraſte.

The annexed representation is I believe very accurate: it is to a ſcale of an inch to a foot, as are thoſe of the other inſcriptions. The inſcriptions themſelves are copied with great care, after impreſſions taken from the ſtones themſelves.



The inscription may be thus read : **DEÆ ANCASTÆ GEMINVS MANIVS LIBENS MERITO** ; for if the letters **VSLM**, in the last line, be supposed to stand for “*votum solvit libens merito*,” as they often do, the proper name must be *Mani*, which is of an unusual form.

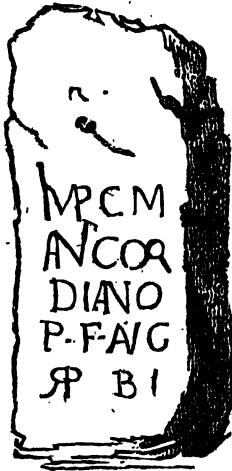
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The next in point of importance, appears to be a fragment of a military column. It is eighteen inches in diameter, of a solid blackish stone. The back part is left rough, as if intended to be fixed against a wall.



I dare not hazard any reading of the inscription, which is of very rude workmanship.

The three following are votive or dedicatory. The first is to the emperor Gordian, probably the younger,



1149

It is of very rude work, and may be read as follows: IMPERATORI CÆSARI MARCO ANTONIO GORDIANO PIO FELICI AVGVSTO. RP. B. I. Of the three Gordians, the youngest only bore the name of Pius; but it is possible that the letter P might not be the name of the emperor, but one of the usual titles, Pius, Felix.

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The next is to the emperors Gallius and Volufianus.

1148



It is as rude as possible, but easily legible:  
**IMPERATORIBVS CÆSARIBVS GALLO  
ET VOLVSIANO AVGVSTIS.**

The last is to the tyrant Tetricus: it is on a square stone, and of very neat workmanship.



150a

It is not entirely legible, the first line being much injured. It may safely be read as follows: AP. CA -- CAIO. ÆSVLO. TETRICO. PIO. ET. AVGVSTO.

This inscription is singular, from the name of Æsulus preceding that of Tetricus, whose family name was Pivesus, or Pefuvius, or Pivefuvius; but neither the father or son ever appear to have borne a name approaching to Æsulus; and though, from the great variety in the spelling of the name on different medals, its orthography appears to have been uncertain, yet Æsulus is too far distant from all the readings, to render it probable that it was intended for any of them.

On the inscriptions found at Bittern we may remark, that four of them are votive to the several emperors named in them. In Horsley's *Britannia Romana* a few occur in the same form, generally on stones approaching more or less to a columnar shape. Horsley calls them *Miliary*; which they evidently cannot be, as neither place nor distance is mentioned on them. Besides, the discovery of four on one spot would alone destroy this supposition. From the rudeness of their form, they cannot be supposed to have been the bases of statues; and indeed they seem too rude to have been placed within any temple or public building. Perhaps they might have been mere memorials of the accession of the sovereign whose name they bear, and placed in the Forum or Campus Martius of the station, when its garrison took the oath of allegiance. This, however, must be merely matter of conjecture.

H. C. ENGLEFIELD.

*Tilney Street, London,*  
*August 7, 1805.*



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***ADDENDA.***



NOTES, &c.

PAGE 35.

The precentorship was certainly attached to St. Mary's : for, in the Liber Regis, the living is described as the " Precentorship in the Church of St. Mary near Southampton, alias the Rectory of St. Mary's near Southampton ;" and as the patron of the vicarage of South Stoneham, though incumbent of the former, is again called "*the Precentor* or Rector of St. Mary's near Southampton," might not the Valor of Pope Nicholas IV. probably afford some further information, as to what this precentorship was ; or how it became connected, not with the *right of patronage*, which is not uncommon in the case of cathedral precentorships, but with the *actual incumbency* of a parish church, of which I do not at present know of another instance ?

## PAGE 39.

Arthur Hammond, esq, has lately discovered, in the records of the Corporation, a deed, with the seal appendent, dated in 1565. In this earlier impression of the seal, the inscription round the reverse is still legible, and it runs thus: O . MATER . VIRGO . DEI . TV . MISERERE . NOBIS.

## PAGE 70.

In the north side of Simnel street, and fronting the lane which forms a communication between that street and St. Michael's square, is an ancient and curious vaulted apartment, which has long been used as a cellar. It is approached, on the south, by a descent of thirteen stone steps; on the seventh of which the ancient door was placed, the hooks of its hinges still remaining: the present door, which is modern, being at the top of the steps, and level with the street. On entering the apartment, those who have seen the ancient room at Netley Abbey, which is called the abbot's kitchen, are struck with the

resemblance which the two places bear to each other.

The length of this room is thirty-four feet ten inches; the breadth, twenty-one feet seven inches; the extreme height of the vaulting, thirteen feet three inches. In the four corners, and midway between them, on the north and south sides, and at the distance from the corners of fifteen feet each way, at two feet four inches above the floor, the ribs or ramifications of the pointed arches which support the ceiling, rise from their respective groins; which are supported by heads apparently in their original state rudely cut, and at present much defaced. The heads are not uniform, and one appears to have shoulders supporting it. On these heads are semi-octagonal and very deep mouldings; from which rise, in each corner one ramification, and at each side three ramifications: these intersect in two places on the ceiling, and in the centre of the ceiling another ramification is thrown across. At the intersection nearest the east end is the ornament of a head with flowing hair and a beard, of tolerable execution. At the other intersection is a carved flower, and the same at the middle ramification.

The south side of the building, which forms its front in Simnel street, is occupied by the door and windows. The door is in the lower or western compartment, and is placed in the middle of one of the arches; the two windows fill up the other. The door way, as was before observed, is on the seventh step below the present level of the street. It consists of a rather obtuse-headed arch, five feet five inches and a half wide, and five feet ten inches high; the sides of the door way going up straight to the height of four feet four inches, from which height the arch begins to rise.

In the upper or eastern compartment of the south side, are two pointed-arched windows, now bricked up. The bottom of these is only three feet from the floor; extreme height five feet six inches; width inwards five feet six inches, but narrowing towards the street, where the width is only four feet. Width of pier between windows, one foot. In the present state of this building, the windows are completely buried, their tops being just about the level of the street.

In the centre of the east end is an ancient fire place, projecting into the room like that at Netley, with a kind of slope like a pent house;

terminating with a large and plain moulding, which is supported by plain pillars. The front of the fire place is now considerably damaged, but is said to have been, within memory, rather handsome; the side pillars having been ornamented with heads below the moulding, and the middle forming an arch. Beyond the pillars, on each side, are brackets carefully finished with neat and deep mouldings, and terminating at the bottom with a sort of foliage. The chimney place is five feet eight inches wide, projects into the room two feet ten inches, height from the ground of the moulding below the pent house five feet two inches, slope of pent house three feet two inches, funnel of chimney three feet by fifteen inches. In the north-east corner of the room is a stone-stair case, now bricked up, but which scarcely seems to have been part of the original plan. And on the west side of the room is a door way into an adjoining cellar, also bricked up, but evidently, in its original state, a modern perforation, and not connected with the building as it was first erected.

Adjoining this building are some old cellars; but a careful inspection of them has afforded no light as to their former probable connexion

with this place. The only thing remarkable in them is an aperture somewhat like the but-tery hatch in ancient buildings, but which is so obstructed with brick work that it seems im-possible to determine whether originally it served this purpose, or was merely a cupboard; and at any rate it seems unlikely ever to have had any thing to do with this building, as, if ever it led any where, it must have been to a place below this.

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The following notes were communicated just as the impression of the work was finished, by the kindness of A. Hammond, esq; to whom the author of this work is already so much indebted. They could not therefore appear in their proper places.

PAGE 6.

The building in Houndwell has been taken down while the work was printing.



This building was originally a public wash-house, and was furnished with troughs, &c, for that purpose. In 1634, as appears by the town records, it was ordered to be repaired. It not having been used for many years, agreeably to its design, it was lately judged expedient to take it down.

## PAGE 8.

In ancient times, the corporation received a toll, for goods, wares, and merchandises, passing on the bridge at Bargate: and, by an entry in their journal, of 1679, it appears that it was given up, in consideration of a sum of money, raised by the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring towns.

## PAGE 9.

The third coat of arms over Bargate is of Frederick Tylney, esq, who represented Southampton in parliament, in 1702.

The fourth of Thomas Lewis, esq, who represented it in 1715. He was a considerable benefactor to the town.

It seems probable that these shields have at times had a change of arms, in compliment of particular benefactors.

There are no means of ascertaining when they were first put up ; but, in 1702, there is an order " that the king's arms, scutcheons, gyants, and the dial, at Bargate, be repaired." At that time, we may presume, some other arms gave way to those of Tylney, he having then presented to the corporation a grand silver tankard, washed with gold.

The shield occupied by the arms of Wyndham was probably painted in compliment to Sir Charles Wyndham, elected a member for this town in 1679.

Two, of his name, appear to have been recorders of this town ; one chosen in 1690, the other (his brother) in 1696.

PAGE 33.

Holy Rood Church, about 1321, stood in the middle of the High-street ; and, on its removal, the old audit house probably was built on the same site. Long subsequent to this, it was greatly defaced by the erection of butchers' shambles around it, which theretofore

were near the friary, now Gloucester-square :  
and the wardens of the butchers were, in  
1634, directed to confine to, either the friars'  
gate, or New-corner, now called Butcher-row.

## PAGE 46.

Among the attendants or servants of the  
corporation, formerly, was a band of five musi-  
cians, who wore gowns and badges ; and, on  
the eleventh of December, 1607, it was or-  
dered, that the musicians should give security  
for their escutcheons or badges of silver.

## PAGE 71.

In 1214, Adam De Port was governor of  
Southampton castle. The family of De Port  
appears, from Domesday Book, to have been  
of great distinction, and to have possessed  
large estates in these parts, soon after the  
Conquest.

## PAGE 75.

The fair usually called Chapel Fair appears,  
from the proclamation usually read on opening

it, to have been granted by Henry VII. In 1628 and 1637 it was forbidden to be held, on account of the plague.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

ENGRAVED TITLE.

The engraved title page, composed from fragments extant in the town.

The arch is that mentioned in page 12, as existing in the room in the town hall, adjoining the grand-jury room.

The bas relief of two heads is noticed in page 32.

The niche work on the stone, on which the upper part of the title is engraved, is copied from that of the conduit in the High-street, near the friary. See page 47.

The three monograms at the bottom of the plate are mentioned in page 64. The middle one is that in St. Michael's church; that to the left is in St. Mary's church-yard; that to the right, at Romsey.

The Gothic letter in which the title is engraved, is copied from that of the mayoralty seal.

PAGE 21.

Measured elevation of the five southernmost arches in the town wall, with the more ancient buildings covered by them. This elevation is drawn to a scale of ten feet to an inch.

PAGE 23.

Another part of the arches in the wall of the town, showing the remain of the very singular building, partly destroyed, and then brought to make a part of the wall. The view comprehends the arches described as eight, nine, ten, and eleven. This elevation is drawn to the same scale with the other, being ten feet to an inch.

**PAGE 38.**

The regalia of the corporation. The mace, oar, and sword, are not drawn in their real proportions, but are each copied exactly from the originals. The mace is the most ancient one belonging to the corporation. On each side are seals. The ship is copied as exactly as the size would allow, from the silver mayoralty seal. The three figures in niches are the reverse of the corporation seal now in use.

The shield in the centre has the arms of the town.

**PAGE 42.**

The two seals described in the note. The large one is the seal for recognizances. The small one the seal of the staple.

**PAGE 50.**

View looking west, in Porters'-lane. The ancient building is on the right. The two re-

maining central windows are seen, and the two lateral windows beyond them on the west side. Between the great opening and the upper window, near the eye, a small part of the moulding of the nearest lateral window to the east of the centre is visible. The furthest eastern window is out of the picture. To the left are the warehouses with the covered foot-way running under them.

## PAGE 63.

Inside view of St. Michael's church, taken from the south door, looking north. The gates seen laterally to the right, open into the chancel. The semicircular arches support the tower.

## PAGE 65.

Font in St. Michael's church. In the compartment to the right of the plate is a fourth part of the top of the font, showing its ornaments; and below, an elevation of the font.



PAGE 68.

View up Blue-anchor-lane, showing the side of the very ancient building mentioned in pages 23 and 68.

PAGE 97.

Elevation of the central part of the building in Porter's-lane; comprehending the triple great window, and one of the two smaller windows on each side of it. The vestiges of the two doors also appear. This elevation extends forty-eight feet, and is drawn to a scale of a quarter of an inch to a foot.

PAGE 105.

Plan of the Roman station at Bittern. The buildings marked *house* and *barn* are of high

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antiquity. Between the barn and new road was a gateway, now destroyed. On the other side of the road the foundation of the tower is marked, out of which the large coping stones were taken.

The lighter shading shows the ground covered by spring tides, the darker by ordinary tides. At low water the whole is a mud bank.

This plan is in great part taken from that published in the first volume of the Hampshire Repofitory.

PAGE 108.

Antiquities found at Bittern. No. 1, 2, and 3, are top, fide, and front views of the stone fupposed to have been part of the front of an ornamented niche. No. 4 is a mutilated cornice. No. 5, one of the coping ftones erroneoufly called femicolumns. No. 6, view of a fragment of an angular ftone of the fame coping. No. 7, an infcription to Aure-

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lian. This last has been found some years.  
No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, are drawn to a scale  
of a quarter of an inch to a foot.



**Huber and Fletcher, Printers;  
High - Street, Southampton.**

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**ERRATA.**

Page 17, line 9, for FENSOR read FENSOR.

Page 42, line 4 from bottom, for Bumel read Burnel.

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Hampshire Repository (Robbins: Winchester)

vol. i (preface 1799) p. 113 note on Bittern with map. It notes  
burials outside outer rampart; "earthen vases contain-  
-ing ashes, square glass bottle filled with bones": also  
"small pot filled with the coin of Allectus, the reverse  
a galley" but never the same galley

vol. ii (preface 1801) pp. 288-294 worthless article on Clau-  
295 Englefield's letter of Jan 1800 printed in the  
book p. 107. With plate of inscr etc (not same plate  
as here but no better nor materially differing)  
From this Hampshire Repository Brayley & Britton  
Beauties of England & Wales (vol. 6. 1805) took the  
copy of the Aurelian inscription. The article in this  
book p. 118 foll is not in the Hampshire Rep.

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