

NOTES

From London to Watford by Railway in 1842.

“ . . . we find ourselves among the throng of persons who are fast settling themselves into the different carriages of the train about to start on the Birmingham Railway; many, no doubt, hastening like ourselves to enjoy the breezes of the country, which, sweeping occasionally across the metropolis, invite us so woefully forth. Carriage after carriage is filled, and still more are in requisition; and one cannot but admire the ingenuity of the contrivance by which, in the midst of so much bustle, the carriages, as they are wanted, are brought along a short rail extending from the principal rail at right angles, till they are in the middle of the latter, when there is a pause, and lo! the whole floor with its rails turns round, and the carriage is in due position ready to attach behind us. A goodly row of carriages now formed, we are starting, and after a short run with the assistance of the engine and rope, the locomotive is attached. Gently at first does it move; putting forth its mighty powers as with a consciousness of the necessity of gentleness in their exercise; but the pace rapidly increases, and we are presently flying along, some twenty-five miles an hour; and dull must be the soul that in ordinary circumstances can feel none of the exhilarating influences of the speed. . . . So we stop at the Watford Station, and ascend to the bridge which here crosses the railway. . . . A curious effect of the establishment of the railway station here is noticeable as we stand a moment on the bridge; we count six houses in all, scattered about, and of these five are public-houses newly erected.”

(*The Penny Magazine of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge*, Aug. 27, 1842.)

The Former George Inn, St. Albans.

By the kindness of the owner, Mr. I. H. Ironmonger, who afforded me every facility for full investigation, I have made an inspection of the above premises.

The first floor landing has for many years exposed three walls of oak panelling of early seventeenth century date, and it was in a room east of this that the recent discovery was made. Here, canvas and paper were stripped from the inner fireplace wall, and this revealed an area of panelling similar to that on the landing but possessing two carved panels with small dentil moulding on the rail above. Also on the left of these enriched panels, a small door was found in the panelling which still possesses an old iron latch, but has lost its hinges, which by the marks on the surfaces were a set of the interesting cock's head type. This door led into a low cupboard which again has a door at the back on to the passage.

The panelling just discovered is entirely painted although of oak, and like the landing will date from the early seventeenth century: it has been mutilated by the insertion of a fireplace and

doorway at a much later date. The only other points of interest I noticed in the rooms were:—Two bedroom partitions formed of panelled window shutters of early eighteenth century date, and a rather fine contemporary corner cupboard with fluted pilasters, etc., now in the scullery and badly in need of repair. I have advised Mr. Ironmonger to rescue this cupboard and give it a more worthy setting.

I also explored the roof and the cellar. The former is just crude carpentry, but very interesting and probably not much later in date than the more architectural trusses over Mr. Mayle's famous room. The cellar shows a few early fragments, such as two large oak posts and beams over, united by curved braces which may well be fifteenth or sixteenth century; but chiefly the walls are of later brickwork and have been vaulted, but this has been very largely demolished. There is, however, a vaulted length of passage on both party walls now blocked, and on entering the adjoining premises the arch could be easily located, pointing to a single ownership at one time.

Under the clothier's shop just east of the archway is a lot of very old timber in the floor, and some walls of curious formation; the earliest being of flint and stone and almost certainly mediæval. Another of brick is semicircular on plan.

All the fireplaces in the Inn are modern, but some of them are in great masses of wall which on investigation might be found to contain much earlier fireplaces.

JOHN C. ROGERS.

Roman Burial Ground at St. Stephen's, near St. Albans.

The existence of a Roman burial ground in the proximity of St. Stephen's Church, near St. Albans, has been known for very many years. As far back as 1848 we read in the *Transactions* of this Society of the discovery of a sepulchral group in St. Stephen's churchyard, consisting of a hexagonal glass jug containing ashes, and surrounded by seven associated vessels. These are preserved in St. Stephen's Church. Other urns were subsequently unearthed near the same spot, but no precise record appears to have been kept. Later to the east of King Harry Lane, and on the west side of the line of Watling Street, many urns and associated pottery were unearthed. During the past year I have recovered fourteen burial groups to the west side of King Harry Lane. The groups generally occurred within a foot or two of the surface and were in some cases very badly damaged. The burials appear to have been of poorer class than those recovered earlier from the east side of King Harry Lane; and this would be anticipated, as the position is farther away from the Roman road, close to which the more wealthy classes would be buried.

The foundations of a small rectangular brick-lined structure, measuring approximately 8 feet by 3 feet internally, and containing much ash, were exposed. This may either have been a large tomb similar in type to several others already discovered in the St. Albans district, or a public burning place to which the bodies of persons not sufficiently wealthy to acquire a piece of land for

of and the cellar. The former is just as interesting and probably not much more so. I also explored the site with crude carpentry, but ve

Several other groups were unearthed last summer near the King Harry Inn, by Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler. So far I have obtained records of twenty-five cremation groups found in scattered positions over an area of about 4-5 acres. I hope to collect more data in the future so that a fuller report can be prepared.

With regard to the date of the burials, the occurrence of the stamps on "Samian" ware of the potters UIRTUS and CELADUS of La Graufesenque, and FORTIS of Mutina, on a lamp recovered from St. Stephen's churchyard in 1929, and a coin of Emperor Domitian found below the ashes in one of the urns recovered in 1900 from Watling House, would place it somewhere between the middle of the first century A.D. and the middle of the second century A.D.

NORMAN DAVEY.

[In our next issue of *Transactions* we hope to publish a full account by Mr. Davey of these finds.—ED.]

Greek and Roman Plated Coins, by William Campbell (Numismatic Notes and Monographs, No. 57), published by the American Numismatic Society, New York, U.S.A., 1933, pp. 174, and about 200 plates with explanatory text, of which a copy is in the Society's library.

This is a photographic record of the scientific investigation by means of the metallographic microscope into the methods by which the ancient "fourree" or subaerati (plated) coins were manufactured. The photographs were taken by Mr. Allen, of the Department of Metallurgy of Columbia University, and the magnifications vary from 25 to 500 diameters. The results (p. 143) show that the Sheffield plate method, rediscovered in this country, was generally used by the ancients in the manufacture of plated coins, now recognized as of official character. Other specimens examined showed that thin metal cases had been soldered on to copper cores. The process of dipping copper blanks in baths of molten metal may have been used for a few specimens examined, but it is more probable that the copper cores were covered with a powdered alloy and heated strongly until the alloy ran and covered the copper. The constitution of the alloy used, and a bibliography of plated coins, are dealt with in pp. 145-163. The work is a valuable addition to the post-war research and discoveries of these coins on sites in Britain and elsewhere.

A. E. ROBINSON.

The origin of the narrative of the **First Battle of St. Albans** (1455), printed in the **Paston Letters** (No. 283). (Cf. *Transactions*, 1931, pp. 112, 113 and 116).

There is a note in the *Stonor Letters and Papers* (Vol. 1, p. 52), edited by C. L. Kingsford, which is of interest to those studying the history of St. Albans, as it was not available when the

Victoria County History of Herts. was published. The Editor points out that the Keeper of the Records in the Tower, when communicating the story of the battle to *Archæologia*, wrongly attributed it to Sir William Stonor, misled possibly by the fact that twenty-four years later he was Steward of the Abbey of St. Albans at Wallingford. The narrative, written and circulated in the interest of the Yorkist party, seems to have come among the Stonor papers accidentally. He further states that the text as printed in the *Paston Letters* is accurate apart from some slight variations in spelling, except in two particulars. The name of the place in St. Peter's Street where the king's banner was pitched was "Goslawe," not "Boslawe"; also in the list of lords who were hurt "the lord of Dudle with an arowe in vysage" should be inserted between Buckingham and Stafford.

H. M. M. LANE.

The Marriage of **Margaret Cook**, sister of Lady Bacon, to **Sir Ralph Rowlett**. (See *Transactions*, 1932, p. 184.)

An entry in the diary of Sir Thomas Hoby, published in the *Camden Miscellany*, Vol. X, p. 127, of the Travels and Life of Sir Thomas Hoby, Kt., of Bisham Abbey, makes it certain that his sister-in-law, Lady Rowlett, died soon after her marriage. The entry runs:—

"1558.

"The xi of Maij I came to London . . . and returned again the xiiij taking my way by Wimblton, where I communed with Mrs. Elizabeth Cook in the way of mariage.

"Monday the xxvij of June, the mariage was made and solemnised betweene me and Elizabeth Cooke, daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke, Knight. The same day was also her syster Margaret, the Quene's maide, married to Sir Rauf Rowlet, Knight, who shortlie departed out of this lief."

H. M. M. LANE.

From London to Hertford by Railway in 1844.

The North-Eastern Railway, being on a level with the country it traverses nearly all the way to Hertford, is one of the pleasantest lines for a holiday excursion out of London; the fares too are moderate, and it is well managed. The only drawback, and it is not a small one, is the utter disregard to the personal comfort of all other than first class passengers. The second class carriages seem as far from "comfortable" as well can be, but the third class have not only no protection from the weather, but are without seats, and altogether far less agreeable than those provided for the conveyance of bullocks for the Smithfield Market.

(*The Penny Magazine of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge*, June 1st, 1844.)

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 30th December, 1933.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance 1st January, 1933	39	10 3	Subscription to National Trust for Pre- serving Places of Historical Interest ...	2	2 0
279 Subscriptions at 10s. 6d.	146	9 6	Subscription to British Records Association	1	0 0
Interest on Investment	9	4	Subscription to Archæological Congress ...	2	12 0
			Donation to Verulamium Excavation Fund	26	5 0
			Lectures and Excursions	67	7 3
			Library	9	0
			Transactions	63	1 0
			Stationery and General Printing	3	6 6
			Postages	5	3 1
			Balance 30th December, 1933	15	3 3
	£186	9 1		£186	9 1

Examined with Pass-book and vouchers and found correct.

F. M. WHITING,
Hon. Treasurer.

N. P. ANDREW.
January 30th, 1934.