

ROMAN CAMP AT HARBURN.

Dr D. Wilson communicated an account of excavations made by him within the area of a small Roman Camp, called Castle Greg, on the Harburn estate, in the parish of West Calder, Mid-Lothian. This camp is referred to in the first edition of Stuart's *Caledonia Romana*, merely as the vestiges of a strong military work. The recent excavations, however, place its Roman origin beyond doubt. Mr Cochrane of Harburn having liberally offered to place workmen at his service, Dr Wilson visited the spot; and, under his directions, the camp was carefully trenched, and numerous remains of Roman glass, mortaria, amphoræ, &c., all in a fragmentary condition, with some fragments of iron weapons, and a portion of a lead vessel, disclosed the unobliterated traces of the Roman footsteps of seventeen centuries ago. Among the glass, were the handle, neck, and considerable remains of an unusually large green glass jar, of the square

form frequently found on Roman sites, and occasionally used as *ossaria*. The well in the centre was excavated to a depth of about eleven feet, without anything of importance being discovered; but an old shepherd, long resident in the district, mentioned that some forty years ago, a "bull's hide" was got out of the well, filled with silver coins. Forsyth remarks, in his "*Beauties of Scotland*," written in 1805 (vol. i., p. 306), "On the top of a rising ground called Castle Craig, are the remains of a small Roman camp in a pretty entire state. Within these few years, several Roman coins were dug up from the environs of this encampment, on which the Roman eagle was sufficiently apparent," though otherwise defaced. The site of the camp is on a high and commanding situation, from which the ground slopes very gradually on all sides, affording an extensive view over the surrounding country. The *vallum* is still tolerably perfect on three sides. The camp is a small irregular square, measuring fifty-two yards from north to south, and forty-nine yards from east to west. The only entrance is on the east side, from which the road has been traced a little way in the direction of Causewayend, a name which indicates the former remains of the legionary paved track. A neighbouring farm bears the name of Camiltre, a corruption, as is supposed, of Camp Hill Tree; and on an old plan of the estate, the camp is marked *Castellum Gregis*. It is situated about a quarter of a mile to the north of a long bleak stretch of the old Lanark road, popularly known, before the days of railway travelling, by the expressive name of the *Lang Whang*.

Various other Roman remains, recently found in Scotland, were exhibited, including a fine small Samian-ware bowl, in perfect condition, potter's stamp: OP CAL; and a remarkable large alabaster vase, dug up at Camelon, near Falkirk. The vase is greatly dilapidated, and its outer surface entirely water-worn, but it appears to have been a work of much beauty; and, had it been in a perfect condition, would have formed one of the most remarkable traces of Roman art hitherto brought to light in the vicinity of the Antonine Wall. It is broad and shallow, somewhat in general form resembling the Warwick vase. It measures $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the lip of the basin, and 10 inches in height. Unfortunately the two portions found have been acquired by different persons, but it is hoped that both will be deposited in the Society's Museum. Various specimens of Samian and other Roman ware were found at the same time, during the cutting of a branch of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to join the Northern Railway. A series of shafts or wells, such as have been repeatedly met with on Roman sites in this country, were also disclosed, containing animal matter, horns, skulls, and bones, broken pottery, and the like refuse of domestic life. Coins of Otho, Antoninus, Aurelian, Gordianus, &c., are also reported to have been obtained from the same site.