

FIND OF ROMAN COINS AT PETERBOROUGH.

BY JOHN C. HILL.

THE following is extracted from our manager's report of the discovery at Peterborough of the vase containing a small find of Roman brass coins of the second and third centuries which I exhibited at the meeting of the Society, held on the 13th July, 1904 :—

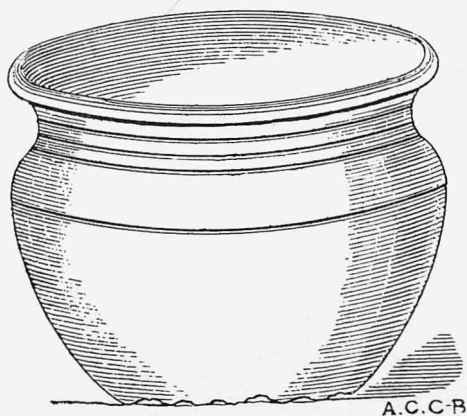
In the field at present being excavated there is to be seen the clear bed of a river or watercourse. This averages one hundred feet across the top and in places is twenty feet in depth. In the clay bed there are holes some five or six feet in width and depth, in which have been found the bones of various animals, including the mammoth, hippopotamus, reindeer, horse, ox, and boar. The remains were in all cases fragmentary, as for example, although two heads of the hippopotamus and numerous bones of the reindeer were present, in no instance was a complete animal represented. The holes are filled with clean yellow gravel and it is suggested that the various bones were washed down the watercourse and lodged in the then mud cavities in the river bed.

On the bottom levels we have found reindeer antlers with the superfluous spurs *cut* off, which appear to have been used as pick-axes and the large number found broken seems to confirm this opinion.

In the part of the brick-field now being worked we have excavated beyond the river bed upon the bank of which the pile dwellings were situated. The face of earth being moved is nine feet in depth and the upper four feet of it has been formed on the top of the old level on which pieces of pottery and Roman bricks have previously been found. As the coins were four feet below this level, or eight feet from the present surface, it seems clear that they had been buried in or about the close of the third century. Upon hearing of the discovery I at once went to the spot and found the vase, which lay on its side eight feet

below the natural surface, but it had been broken and probably removed by the men; the missing portion, however, was nowhere to be seen. From the large, bowl-shaped impression in the clay where the coins were, I feel certain that there were large numbers of them, but the workmen would not readily notice them, for they were of practically the same colour as the clay, and to which they would naturally adhere. Their weight, too, may account for the bottom of the vase having fallen out, for it is the portion missing.

HERBERT WOOLTON.



VASE IN WHICH THE COINS WERE FOUND.

The vase is of dull grey earthenware, six inches in height and eight and a half in diameter. It is bowl-shaped, but gathered below the rim, which is turned over. In the gathering it is encircled by three faintly indented lines and at its broadest circumference by a fourth.

The coins recovered from the clay were few and, owing to their almost illegible condition, are of little interest as such. Nevertheless as a find the points worth noticing are (1) The fact that without exception the coins show signs of long circulation in the excessive wear and tear they have undergone before being consigned to the earth; (2) The depth of their burial, namely, eight feet below the present undisturbed level of the ground; (3) The size of the bowl which either did, or could, contain a comparatively large hoard; (4) One of the minims had been pierced and the hole had worn through the edge of the coin before the deposit.

The following is probably a sufficient description of the coins:—

1. Hadrianus, A.D. 117-138.	1st bronze	...	...	1
2. Antoninus Pius, A.D. 138-161.	1st bronze	...	...	1
3. Faustina Senior, died A.D. 141.	1st bronze	...	...	2
4. Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 140-180.	1st bronze	...	...	4
5. Severus Alexander, A.D. 222-235.	1st bronze	...	...	1
6. Claudius Gothicus, A.D. 269-270.	3rd bronze	...	...	1
7. Carausius, Emperor in Britain, A.D. 287-294.	3rd bronze	...	...	1
8. Illegible, 1st bronze (1); 3rd bronze (1); Minims (2)				4

