BURGH, NEAR WOODBRIDGE.

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Among the dozen places in the county in which the syllable *burgh* in some shape survives, two retain the name pure and simple, both noted as Roman Camps, the station of the Count of the Saxon shore on the Yare estuary, called *Gariannonum*, which we visited some twelve years ago, and the place where we are assembled to-day.

In itself the name is of no small etymological importance. Time was when everything was traced to the Hebrew. Recently the pendulum has had an opposite swing, and a hard and fast line was sought to be established between Semitic and Indo-Germanic roots.

But resemblances, though not accountable, are not therefore to be put out of account. Certain it is that we find *Birah* in late Hebrew, used in Nehemiah ii. 8, for that fortress of the temple called Βάρις, and *Turris Antonia*. Gesenius suggests a connection between this word and one with a prefixed *Aleph*, signifying *very mighty*, but in any case it is allied to the well-known Sanskrit *pura* (fort) existing in so many names in Hindostan, and among others to the Greek πύργος, a tower. Apparently *Burgus* did not get into the Roman Vocabulary through the Greek, being a very late arrival. Conquerors pick up the language of the conquered, and possibly from a German source arose this convenient name for a fortress, which is first found in the treatise of the Constantinopolitan Vegetius Renatus on Warfare, about the end of the fourth century. "Castellum parvulum quem burgum vocant" are his words. As in troublous times people seek to live enclosed by walls, the

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name soon widened itself to the intramural houses, and thus the present use of *borough*, *burgess*, &c., came about.

When this name became attached to the camp where we are met to-day is not clear, but probably, as in the case of Burgh Castle, in the early Saxon period. When Ptolemy was putting forth his geography there was more activity in North Britain than hereabouts. Οὐένετα (Venta) is the only Eastern Counties name which he condescends to notice, but I wish to lay before you the evidence which has led to the identification of this place with the *Combretonium* of the *Itinerary of the Provinces*, commonly called *Antonine's Itinerary*. It has fallen to my lot to speak so frequently of this record that I need only say on the present occasion that its date appears to be c. 200, and that Caracalla, son of the great Emperor Septimius Severus, called Antoninus, is probably the person whose name the Road-book bears.

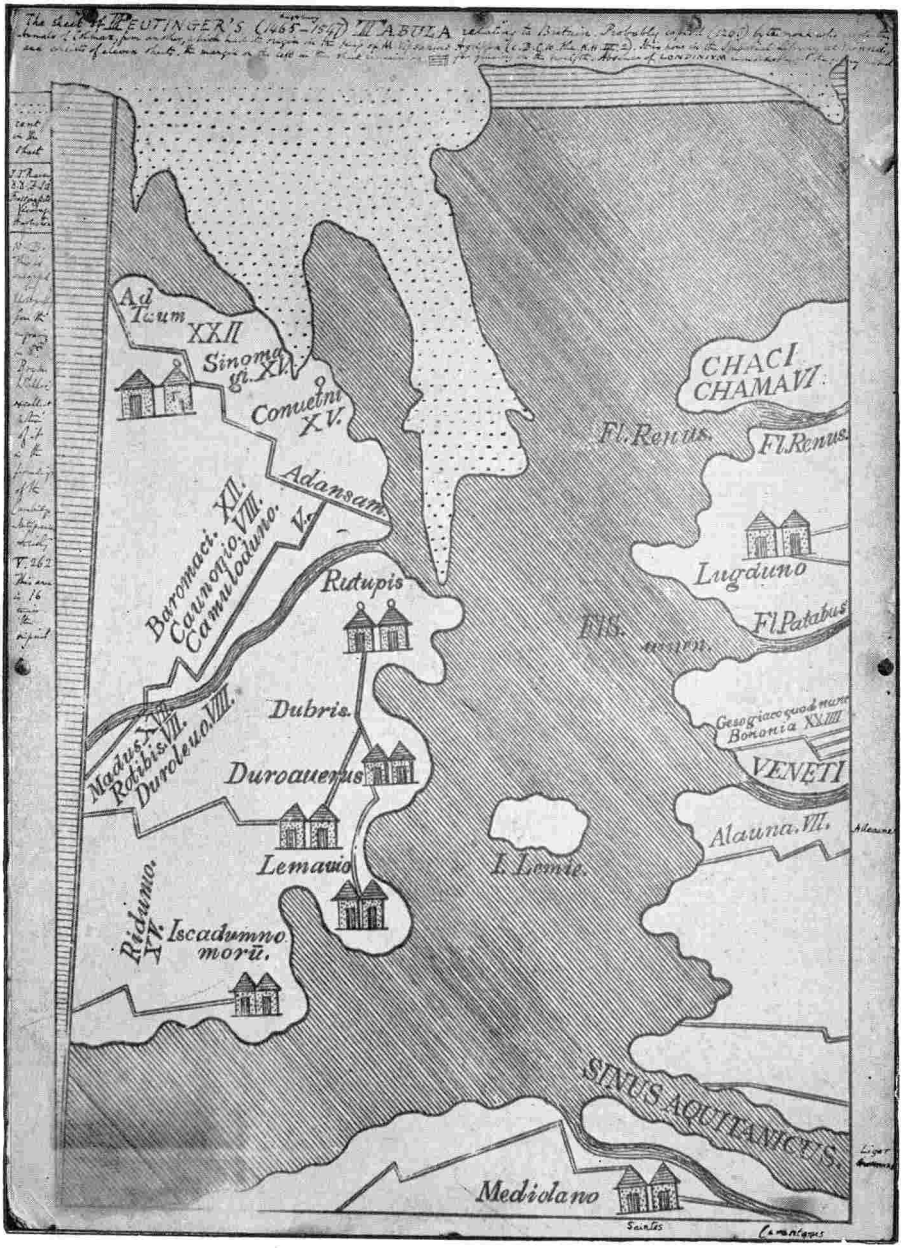
Combretonium occurs in the Ninth of the British routes, on a road running to London from *Venta Icenorum*, which I identify with Norwich, not with its ancient neighbour Caister, on the Tase, which seems identical with *Ad Taum* in another authority. The stations on the road with which we are concerned are *Sitomagus*, *Combretonium* and *Ad Ansam*. Starting from *Venta Icenorum* the lengths of the stages are respectively 32, 22 and 15 miles. I assume here that *Ad Ansam* is Stratford S. Mary, venturing to refer to my Suffolk, Chapter III., for evidence. We thus have 67 Roman miles to account for between Norwich and this village on the Stour. The actual distance is roughly two thirds of this, and consequently there must have been a considerable deflection eastward or westward.

The eastward theory, which I adopt, gives Dunwich for *Sitomagus*, and places *Combretonium* here. The westward deflection, favoured by Camden, takes us to Thetford and Brettenham. Camden's reasons are mainly etymological, and etymology in his hands is too ductile, for he calls the Thet the *Sit*, against all authority. Brettenham for *Com-*

bretonium is ready to hand. There are traces of a camp there, less distinguishable every year, about three-quarters of a mile from which is Castle Hill, a somewhat commanding situation. Thus, though there is no tradition as to the finding of coins, pottery, &c., at Brettenham, as Canon Betham tells me, there is *prima facie* evidence to connect it with *Combretonium*, were there not stronger evidence for Burgh.

Camden's selection does not go beyond Thetford. His disciple William Burton (1658) in his *Commentary on Antoninus his Itinerary* (p. 229), leans towards Brettenham, but does not speak positively.

That "capital fire-side traveller," as our lamented old friend Mr. Bloxam used to call him, Reynolds (*Iter Britanniarum*, Cambridge, 1799) places *Combretonium* at Stratford, possibly Stratford S. Andrew (if so, far too near Dunwich), possibly Stratford S. Mary (if so, far too near Colchester); Conrad Mannert, who on this occasion pays most regard to measurement, favours Woodbridge, and Lapie, whose good genius seems to have momentarily deserted him, takes the place to Ipswich. All these, however, favour the eastward deflection. Of greater importance is the testimony of the *Tabula Peutingeriana*. This remarkable relic, which is now in the Imperial Library at Vienna, was probably copied (c. 1265) by the monk who wrote the Annals of Colmar from another, which had its origin in the Map of M. Vipsanius Agrippa (c. B.C. 10), but must have received many subsequent modifications and additions. Here *Convetni*, one of those pleasing varieties of spelling for which students of Itineraries must be prepared, is evidently *Combretonium*, for close to it is written XV., the Antonine mileage between that station and *Ad Ansam*. No road is drawn passing through it, suggesting that the fine post-Itinerary road from Ipswich northward, which is indicated clearly as going through *Ad Taum*, had already drawn the traffic away from Antonine Route IX. There can be no doubt as to the eastward position of both the disputed stations, in spite of the abominable



BRITISH SHEET FROM PEUTINGER'S TABULA.

drawing. The numbers at *Ad Taum* and *Sinomagi* are blundered, but the latter is of course the *Sitomagus* of the Itinerary.

The camp must have been a large one, stretching from the churchyard at Clopton to that at Burgh, but I can give you no detail of dimensions. The fictile fragments which you have seen are of too ordinary a character to call for remark. With regard to coins, I heard some time ago a legend of a gold coin picked up here, and sold to a watchmaker at Woodbridge. From Mr. Maude I have received four bronze coins: the largest, much rubbed, possibly a Tiberius, with S.C. on the reverse; one of Crispus, the unhappy son of Constantine the Great, with a reverse referring to *Vota Decennalia*, never to be fulfilled, surrounded with the words CAESARVM NOSTRORVM P (ecunia) S (ignata); another, apparently of the same period, which I cannot read, and a minim with the head of Constantine II. in all resemblance.

And here ends all that can be said about the Roman settlement here, except by way of conjecture.

The Counts of the Saxon Shore, who were officers under the Master of the Foot in the West, would be sure to visit their posts by cruising, but it might happen in exceptionally coarse weather that a water-weary Count should take the road to Colchester or London.

There was a coast road from Burgh Castle southward, and thus Nectaridius, Nannenus, or even the celebrated Carausius himself might have found hospitality within these walls.

We must pass with a bound to the days of William the Conqueror. In Domesday Book we are again confronted with great varieties of spelling. *Burch* is the normal type, suggesting to my mind that the well-known East Anglian surname in its diversities may hail from this place. *Burc*, *Burh*, *Burhc*, *Burgh*, *Burcg* and *Burg* are alternative forms, of a phonetic character.

So far as I can judge, about a quarter of the land was under cultivation.

Ten owners are named, Count Alan, Count Hugo, Robert Malet, R. de Glanville, Roger of Poitou, William de Warenne, Hugh de Montfort (which we find by the *Inquisitio Eliensis* to have been pronounced *Munford*), Geoffrey de Magna Villa, the Countess of Albemarle and Humphrey the Chamberlain, in addition to the lands of S. Etheldreda, held by the great Benedictine House at Ely. These are of the type who, like Abraham and Lot in the Book Genesis, divided the land. Take the Poictevin Roger for instance. I find him here. In the parish of Fressingfield he was possessed of the fair lands of Wetyngham; and a glance shows him at Hawkedon in Risbridge Hundred and many other places, especially South Lancashire. How these people looked after their property is a wonder. In passing from Norman grantees I should be glad of any information about the Countess of Albemarle, as the earliest notice I can find of the title is in 1097, when the Conqueror granted it to Stephen, son of Odo Earl of Blois, whom for the further maintenance of his estate he also endowed with Holderness. This Stephen, described as son of the Conqueror's half-sister by the mother's side, appears to have been succeeded in 1126 by his son William, who was buried at Thornton-on-the-Humber, leaving two daughters. But the earliest of these dates is ten years too late for the lady on whose land in this parish were two free men, one under the protection of S. Etheldreda, and the other of the Count Ralph. Her Burgh property does not seem to have been well managed, there being only half a plough-team at the Survey in the place of the two plough-teams of former days. Indeed, with the exception of William of Warenne's assessment, things seem to have gone back here on the whole since the days of Edward the Confessor. His money value is a little up, and where there were 16 pigs, there are now 12 pigs and 17 sheep. Under the heading of his lands also is named "i. ecclesia de viii. acris," and it is significantly added "et plures habent partem," built as it was doubtless by the joint efforts of the Burgenses. Brixteuuold, a freeman of S. Etheldreda, seems to have thriven, as we find

Brixuuoldestona among the Ely lands in Colneis Hundred, 6 quarentenes by 2. No manor is mentioned in Domesday Book.

The Uffords were Lords of the Manor here in the fourteenth century. Two of them held the Earldom of Suffolk, and their arms, *Sable*, a cross engrailed *or*, are often found in glass, or in the quarterings of subsequent coats. Thomas, the first Earl, married Margaret de Norwich of Mettingham, a daughter of the great Admiral who won the battle of Sluys one fine summer day. Their son William lies at Woodbridge, and in his day shared fully in the troubles which befell the country. In the great Villein insurrection under the "lewd Priest," John Wraw, in 1381, when some fifty thousand are said to have been in revolt in Suffolk, there was an intention to bring "William Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, into their fellowship, but he, advertised of their intention, suddenly rose from supper and got him away." Thus Baker, after William of Walsingham, from whom we learn that Ufford, "disguising himself, came through by-ways to the King at S. Alban's, with a Wallet on his shoulder, pretending to be a servant to Sir Roger de Boys" (Tindall's notes to Rapin).

Next year, after the marriage of the King with Anne of Bohemia, "Parliament began again, in which William Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, being chosen by the Knights of the Shires to deliver, in behalf of the Commonwealth, certain matters concerning the same; the very day and hour in which he should have done the business, as he went up the stairs towards the upper House, he suddenly fell down and died, having been merry and well before to all men's judgments." It was indeed an exciting time, the Commons objecting alike to Rebellion, and to the proposed methods of preventing it, and using a Temporal Peer to head the opposition which seemed too feeble if emanating merely from the House of Commons. The times are verily changed. Thus sinks the noble house of Ufford, Lords of the Manor of Burgh, and with this collapse must end this paper, which has run its normal length.