

THE EARLIEST BRITISH CHURCH
Found in the Ruins of a Long Buried
Roman City near London.

Within the last month the remains of the earliest Christian church yet discovered in Britain were found in a corner of a long buried Roman city that is now being brought to light near Reading, some thirty-five miles from London. A Roman council chamber, extensive public baths, the remains of triumphal arch, workshops, and many other highly interesting relics of the Roman occupation, and also of still earlier times in Britain's history, were lately found there, but the remains of this Christian church are by far the most important and interesting to England and to the world.

Antiquarians have long believed that a city of considerable size once stood there on the English acres where cornfields have been since the memory of man. The story was told, and the city almost rebuilt, year after year by the ripening grain as it followed the line of intrenchment. The story of the wheat has been verified for many acres, and search along the lines of the early ripening grain has laid the city bare by opening up the original streets. The old city was laid out in exact squares, checker-board fashion, precisely as in a modern American city.

Desultory digging was done for some years, but only in the past year or so have excavations been made in a thorough and scientific manner by the society of Antiquaries. The city is believed to be the old Roman city of Calleva, and dates back almost to the beginning of the Christian era. The Romans found an encampment and rude city when they came there, and interesting relics of the pre-Roman occupants of the site have been discovered. The Romans utilized the works already existing and after laying out their city built a great wall around it twenty feet high and nine feet thick surrounding the wall on the outer side with a deep moat.

The remains of the Christian church were found in the southeast corner of the city. It is the earliest Christian church found in Britain. The present supposition is that it was built about 350 A.D. when Calleva was quite an old city. It was a very small building, suggestive of the small beginnings of the faith. Its extreme length was forty-two feet. It had a semicircular ending, and was divided into a small nave and two aisles, with a very large porch at the east end. The church stood east and west, but contrary to modern custom the altar was at the western end. The position of the altar is marked by a large square of the mosaic, the colors of which are black, white, red, and green also gray, and are quite fresh. The composition of the mosaic is the ordinary red brick, Purbeck marble, hardened chalk, and limestone. The floor of the church was laid with tesserae an inch square. A little platform was found just east of the church, believed to have been a receptacle for water for the use of those entering the church. A well of ordinary construction, lined with oak, was found west of the end of the church. The oak is in state of preservation.

A Roman council chamber, with a hall 270 feet long by 58 feet wide, is one of the interesting finds. It is divided into three parts, the northern and southern used as law courts and the central chamber by the governing body. The forum in front of the chamber, where the citizens met, is about 140 feet square. Offices and shops and stores have been discovered all over the city, and from them have been gathered the most complete and interesting collection of Roman relics yet secured. Weights and measures have been found, lamps and candlesticks, all manner of pottery and art works, gems and jewelry, bangles and brooches, and rings and knives, needles, spoons, and, in fact, practically every article in use in a big city at that age.

The most interesting part of the collection is a case full of silver and copper coins. Most of them are in a state of fine preservation, and they date from the beginning of the Roman empire in Britain until its end. One is dated A. D. 54, and the coins range from this period down to the time of Arcadius and Honorius, when the Romans withdrew from Britain.

Many remains of animals were found, among them skulls of the domestic British ox, which is now extinct. Several tiles were found containing the footprints of goats, sheep, cats and dogs. The tiles had been stepped on before they were burned. One tile contains the imprint of a woman's foot, a small, dainty, well-formed member that seemingly must have borne a very sweet Roman maiden. The quaint relic might well be basis for an interesting story, but antiquarians are severely practical and do not deal in romance.

Religious Festivals in India.
Allahabad, "The City of God" situated at the confluence of the two sacred rivers, the Ganges and Jumna, is visited by large numbers of pilgrims throughout the year for ablution at the sacred spot, which they believe cleanses them from all past sins. At the great religious fair, held there in December and January, which lasts a month, some 240,000 persons are present. On the occasion of the Car Festival connected with the worship of Jagannatha, or "Lord of the World," held annually at Juggernaut, E. I., there are generally 100,000 pilgrims present, who make gifts to the value of £37,000. There are twenty-three other festivals held in honor of the same deity throughout the year, attended by 50,000 to 80,000 pilgrims. At Hardwar, or "Vishnu's Gate," a town situated

where the Ganges emerges from the Himalayan mountains, a great religious fair takes place, at which upwards of 100,000 pilgrims attend. On every twelfth year a special festival takes place—the last occurred in 1884—when from 300,000 to 2,000,000 are collected. At Benares, the "Holiest City of India," large numbers of pilgrims attend daily throughout the year from the most distant parts to bathe in the holy well of Mani-karniki. On particular occasions upwards of 1,000,000 people visit this city.

GOOD JENNY LIND.
The Christian Character of the World-Famous Singer.

Jenny Lind the woman was greater than Jenny Lind the singer.
"I would rather hear Jenny talk than sing—wonderful as it is," wrote Mrs. Stangles, the wife of the Bishop of Norwich, in whose palace the great singer was a guest while in that city.

The Bishop's son, subsequently Dean Stanley, who had no "ear for music," and on whom, therefore her singing was wholly lost, wrote that she had "the manner of a princess with the simplicity of a child, and the goodness of an angel." Her character showed itself, he added, "though a thousand traits of humility, gentleness, thoughtfulness, wisdom, piety."

She looked upon her natural faculty as a gift of Heaven, and never sang without reflecting that it might be for the last time. "It has been continued to me from year to year for the good of others."

This feeling was no fine sentiment, but a religious principle. While she was the Bishop's guest she begged Mrs. Stanley to allow her to take three of the maids to a concert where she was to sing.
At a service in the cathedral she was moved to tears by the singing of the boy choristers, and had places reserved for them at her concert the next morning. When she came on the platform she greeted them with a smile of recognition, which the boys never forgot.

She gave to charitable objects thousands of pounds gained by her wonderful voice. While singing in Copenhagen, such was the excitement that Court and town begged her to give them one more day of song. A gentleman of musical culture had, with his wife, anxiously looked forward to her visit. When she came he was on a sick bed. Jenny Lind heard of his desire, and found time to go to his house and sing to him and his wife.

When she went to London, Mendelssohn asked her to sing to a friend of his, who had long lain upon a bed of sickness. She went and cheered her with songs, the remembrance of which is still cherished by the family.
Again and again, when the opportunity offered for such an act of kindness, she sang to invalids who could not be present at her concerts. The gift within her was a trust to be administered for the good of others.

A Student at Seventy-five.

The oldest student at the Princetown Seminary is Henry Chapman, who is seventy-five years of age. About fifty years ago he had a great inclination to go into the ministry but poverty obliged him to enter commercial pursuits. About five years ago his brother died, and Mr. Chapman came into possession of an income sufficient to maintain him in comfort for the remainder of his life. The longing of his youth returned, and he is now studying theology with enthusiasm.

Milan's Great Cathedral.

An architectural commission, appointed by the city of Milan some time ago to report on the condition of the cathedral, have found several large cracks in the roof of the main nave. The cracks are widening slowly, and will soon threaten the collapse of the whole of the roof. A committee of experts will be appointed shortly to consider the best means of repairing the roof. The cathedral is entirely of white marble, was begun in 1386, and excepting St. Peter's in Rome is the finest cathedral in Europe.

The Three Angels.

Three angels from the gate of heaven came
To earth below,
And by the side of mortals ever since,
'Mid all their woe,
The three have stood, to comfort and to cheer—
Three stars above—three voices sweetly near.

Faith was the first created of the three
That came to earth,
Among those morning stars that sweetly sung
Creation's birth.
With his bright face turned ever to the Lord,
The trust of childhood in the Father's word.

Hope is the name the next bright spirit bears
In heaven's host,
As close beside us mortals where we roam,
Weary and lost,
He comes to bid us look beyond the night,
His own bright eye fixed on the dawning light.

The other of the group to us so near—
Sweet Charity,
Or Love, the name as called on high,
And with the three—
Love the sweet altar fire to God that burns,
And then for man in fervent pity burns.

Beside each pilgrim in his weary way,
The three are gone—
Even when slighted, still in pity deep
To bless and cheer—
But the sweet star, the brightest of the three,
And most like Him above, sweet Charity.

For "God is Love"—so pure and deep with Him
The fountains flow,
Which the deep shadows of parental love
So dimly show—
All wisdom, power, and holiness with Him;
But Love the central ray of light sublime.

And when beside the weary and the poor
We mortals go—
By word and deed to lighten and to soothe
Each heavy woe—
Then the dear angel comes with us to stay,
And heaven reflects below its sweetest ray.

—J. H. Cuthbert, in Washington Evening Star.

NEWS AND NOTABILLIA.

Mrs. Robert G. Ingersoll receives almost as many letters as her husband, and most of the letters inclose religious tracts.

Right Rev. K. H. Gez. von Shiel, S. T. D., Lutheran Bishop of Sweden, is expected in New York on Wednesday, May 10.

A son of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England, is a captain in the artillery and an enthusiast in the art of war.

In Finland it has been decided that a person, in order to receive assistance from the authorities when in need, must attend church every Sunday.

The wall round the City of Babylon at the height of its prosperity was fifty-six miles in length. A wall round London would be over seventy miles in extent.

The Duke of Norfolk gave the Pope, at his jubilee, two envelopes; one contained a cheque for over £40,000, a million francs, with the inscription, "To the Holy Father, from an English Catholic."

The title "Reverend" was, until the sixteenth century, addressed to many others besides clergymen, such as judges and eminent writers; but from that time its use has been strictly confined to the clergy.

The oldest prelate of the Church of England is the Bishop of Chichester, aged 91; the youngest, the Bishop of St. Asaph, who is but 43 years of age. Though the Bishop of Chichester is of such an age he attends to all the duties of his office without a coadjutor.

The mummies of the High Priest of Ammon, now in the possession of the Egyptian government, are to be raffled off shortly. They will be divided into six lots and drawn for by the museums of London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburg.

Mr. Gore has decided to retire temporarily, at all events, from the headship of Pusey House. It is said that the author of "Lux Mundi" has another important theological work in hand, and does not find that he can give enough time to his literary labors in his present post.

Rev. Dr. Talmage and the trustees of the Brooklyn Tabernacle are busy preparing to meet their maturing obligations, amounting to \$65,000. A subscription paper has been circulated with the understanding that none is binding unless the whole amount is raised. Dr. Talmage has subscribed \$10,000 and a personal friend, \$5,000.

The Archbishop of York has been a soldier in his time; but his record is nothing to that of Bishop Turner, of the American Episcopal Methodists, who has been at various times a postmaster, a custom-house inspector, and a detective. He has been staying in London for some little time past, where a "colored" bishop is somewhat of a novelty.

The pew in which Abraham Lincoln sat while living in Washington was removed from the church in which he worshipped—the New York Avenue Presbyterian—about ten years ago, and relegated to an adjoining Sunday school room. The trustees have now been instructed by a vote of the society to restore it, and an inscribed silver tablet will suitably designate it.

It is somewhat surprising to find in the English new "Clergy List" that no fewer than 16 clergymen hold commissions in the volunteer force. One is a full-blown captain. Dr. Warre, head master of Eton, is the only clerical colonel. Four of the assistant-masters of Eton are also volunteers. Altogether there are nine captains, three majors, two lieutenants, and one quartermaster.

The clergy of London are about to be reinforced by a brother whose surname is Job. The patriarchs are well represented in the "clergy list." Abraham has several representatives, Bishop Abraham leading the way; Isaac is equally honored; and Jacob beats them both. But the clergy are great on Scriptural names. There are already in the "clergy list" Revs. Adam, Eves, Cain, Abell, Ham, and many others of equally ancient associations.

An annual sermon is preached in a church near Ledbury, Eng., against the vice of duelling—in commemoration of a tragic event which took place in that locality many years since, when two rival lovers died fighting for a young lady's hand. This lady on her death-bed left a certain sum of money to the vicar of the parish on condition that the interest should be paid to the poor, and a sermon preached once a year bearing upon the sin of duelling.

Protestant Nonconformity, as it is classed in England, loses one of its most eminent scholars by the death of Rev. Samuel Cox, D. D., who was a member of the Old Testament Revision Committee. For a quarter of a century he was pastor of a Baptist church at Nottingham, but his best work was done in the study rather than in the pulpit. He was the original editor of The Expositor, a magazine that gave a powerful impetus to the historical study of the Scriptures in Free Church circles, and his "Salvator Mundi," in which he urged "the larger hope," has had a wide circulation on both sides of the Atlantic.

The last proof was corrected last week in the translation of the Bible into the tongue of the Gilbert Islanders, and the first volume of the 306th translation of the Scriptures into a foreign language was turned off the presses of the American Bible Society. The publication represents thirty-four years of labor on the part of Missionary Hiram Bingham among the natives of the Gilbert Island group. Presentation volumes have been placed in the library of the American Bible Society and in the library of the American Board in Boston and sent to the King of the Gilbert Islands and the Hawaiian Board of Missions at Honolulu. An edition of 2,000 copies has been printed.

The Rev. James A. Spurgeon's connection with the Metropolitan Tabernacle, with the work of which he has been associated for a quarter of a century, ceases at the end of June, when Dr. Pierson's engagement at the Tabernacle also expires. This course was resolved upon at the meeting, when it was further determined by a large majority to invite Mr. Thomas Spurgeon, who is at present in New Zealand, to accept the pulpit supply for a term of 12 months from July next, with a view to the pastorate. The late C. H. Spurgeon made frequent reference to his son Tom as his successor. The call addressed to Mr. Thomas Spurgeon is understood to have Dr. Pierson's complete approval.

Messages of Help For the Week.

Sunday.—Psalm 42, 4. "I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy-day."

Monday.—Psalm 49, 12. "Hear this, all ye people, give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world. Both low and high: rich and poor, together. John, 3, 7. "Ye must be born again."

Tuesday.—8 v. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and then hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the spirit."

Wednesday.—13 v. "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Thursday.—17 v. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

Friday.—18 v. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Saturday.—John, 14, 1. "Ye believe in God, believe also in Me."

Go Labor On.
Thou that hast suffered, brood not o'er thy woes,
But to thy tasks! Thy losses and thy pangs
Forget in cheerful toil; thyself forget.
There he who loves thee yet, whom thou dost love;
For God and these still be it thine to live;
And all unwearied in love's ministries,
Go labour on and in thy works rejoice.
—Ray Palmer.

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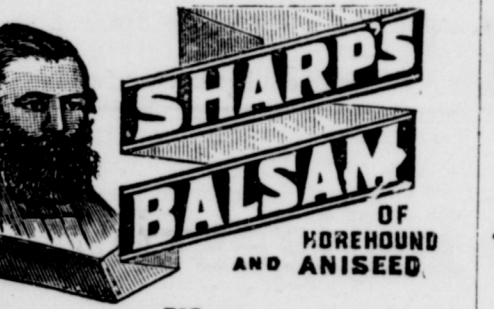
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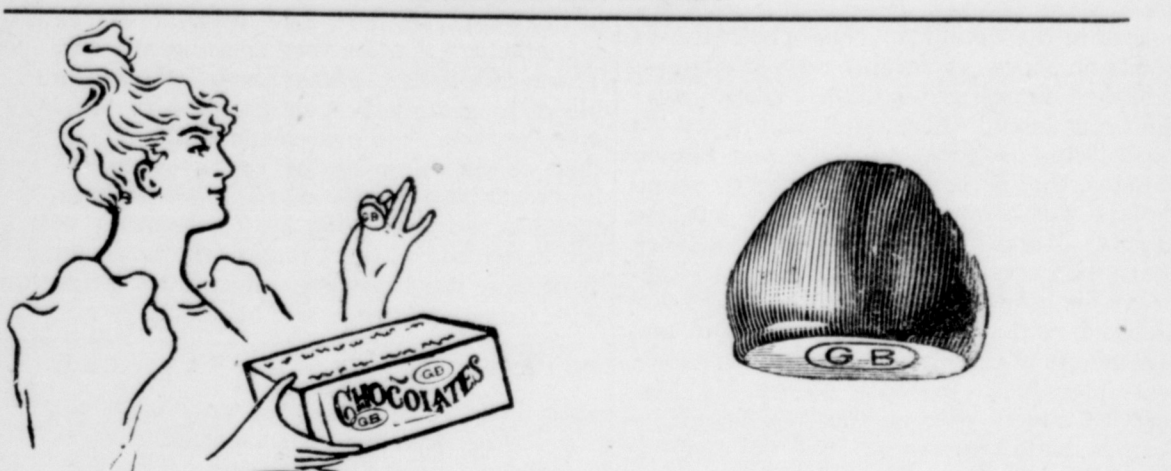
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