

William Somner
Chartham news, edited by Nicolas Battely
London
1703

THE
ANTIQUITIES
OF
CANTERBURY.
OR,

A Survey of that Ancient CITY,
with the Suburbs and Cathedral.

Containing principally Matters of Antiquity in them all.
Collected chiefly from Old Manuscripts, Lieger-Books, and other like
Records, for the most part not before Printed.

With an APPENDIX here Annexed:

Wherein (for better Satisfaction to the Learned) the Muniments and
Records of chiefest Consequence, are faithfully exhibited.

All (for the Honour of that Ancient Metropolis, and his good Affection
to Antiquities) Sought out and Published by the Industry and
Good Will of

WILLIAM SOMNER.

The Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged by Nicolas Battely, M. A.

CHARTHAM-NEWS:

Or, A Brief Relation of some strange Bones there lately digged up, in
some Grounds of Mr. John Somner's of Canterbury: Written by his
Brother Mr. William Somner, late Auditor of Christ-Church, Canterbury,
and Register of the Archbishop's Court there, before his Death.

To which some Observations concerning the Roman Antiquities of
Canterbury are added. Together with a Preface, giving an Account
of the Works and Remains of the Learned Antiquary Mr. William
Somner, by N. Battely.

The FIRST PART.

LONDON:

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<i> CHARTHAM NEWS:
OR,

A Brief Relation of some Strange Bones there
lately digged up, in some Grounds of M/r. John
Somner's of Canterbury.

<iii> To the READER.

Kind Reader,

THE Author of this short Discourse, even whilst he was upon it, and had scarce
read it over himself, was seized upon, first by sickness, then death, the common
Fate of all men. If therefore, there be any thing amiss or imperfect in it, it would be
great unkindness to impute it to him, who, by such unavoidable necessity, was prevent=
ed the benefit of a Review; and no less unkindness, perchance, though more tolerable,
to blame him, who, as out of a due respect to the Author; so, out of a desire to gratify
them, (not a few probably) who may desire to satisfy their Curiosities, or improve
their Knowledge, in such things; hath published it. Farewel.

<1> Altho it may, and perhaps must be granted, that Miracles (strictly under=
stood) are long since ceased: Yet in the latitude of the notion, com=
prehending all things uncouth and strange, (*miranda*, as well as *miracula*;

wonders, as well as miracles) they are not so: but do, more or less, somewhere or other, daily exert and shew themselves. *Dies Diem docet.* New days make new discoveries; especially to such as are in any measure curious, (shall I say) or ingenious and inquisitive; as few enough amongst us here in England are, unless acted and animated by some profit or advantage to themselves by the discovery; how considerable and remarkable soever it may be otherwise. 'Tis true, 'New Lights' are now-a-days much cried up: but as in matters (mostly) of Religion; so (if you mark it) by whom? But such, as not so much for Conscience, as for lucre sake, broach and intrude them upon a credulous giddy sort of people, whose applause they first catch, and then their purses. But leaving these spiritual Mountebanks, and their counterfeit ware, 'New Lights' only in pretence; I shall here acquaint you with a piece of New light indeed, but of another kind, presented and held forth upon no account or aim at all of profit or advantage to the publisher; but (if he mistakes not) of good use and profit (in point of knowledge) unto others, (learned Antiquaries and Naturalists, as I suppose) of more skill, insight, and judgment, (if they please to employ them on this occasion) in things so rare and extraordinary, then he can, doth, or would be thought to pretend unto. Well, to the matter of fact then.

<2> Mr. John Somner, in the Month of September, 1668. sinking a Well at a new House of his in Chartham, a Village about three Miles from Canterbury, towards Ashford, on a shelving Ground or Bank-side, within twelve rods of the River, running from thence to Canterbury, and so to Sandwich Haven; and digging for that purpose about seventeen foot deep, through gravelly and chalky ground, and two foot into the Springs; there met with, took and turned up a parcel of strange and monstrous Bones, some whole, some broken, together with four Teeth, perfect and sound, but in a manner petrified, and turned into Stone; weighing (each Tooth) something above half a pound, and almost as big (some of them) as a Man's fist. Cheek-teeth, or Grinders, as to the form, they are all, not much unlike, but for the bigness, the Grinders of a Man. And whereas I said, 'almost as big, some of them, as a Man's fist;' it brings to my remembrance what I have read in Ludovicus Vives, of such a Tooth, but a little bigger; (*dens molaris pugno major*; he saith: that is, 'a

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Cheek Tooth, bigger than a fist') which was shewed to him for one of St. Christophers Teeth, and was kept in a Church that bare his name: Which whether he believed or not, I know not; but contradict it he doth not, I'm sure; neither he, nor his learned Companion, whom he doth name there. Just such another Tooth 'of the bigness,' he saith, 'of an ordinary fist,' was seen by Acosta, (a very creditable Author) in the Indies, digged out of the ground in one of their Houses there, with many other Bones; which, put together, represented a Man, of a formidable, or as he speaketh, 'deformed bigness,' or, 'greatness;' as he judged of it. And so must we have judged of these Teeth, and of the Body to which they belonged, had not other Bones been found with them, which could not be Man's Bones. Some that have seen them, by the Teeth, and some other circumstances, are of opinion, that they are the Bones of an 'Hippopotamus,' or *Equus Fluvialis*; that is, a 'River-horse;' for a 'Sea-horse,' as commonly understood and exhibited, is a fictitious thing. Yet Pliny makes *Hippopotamum*, (*mari, terræ, amni communem*) to belong to Sea, Land, and Rivers. But what are the differences and properties of each kind, I leave to others to enquire. The Earth or Mould about them, and in which they all lay, being like a Sea-earth, or Fulling-earth, not a Stone in it, unless you dig three foot deeper, and then it rises a perfect gravel.

<3> So have you the Story; an Account, if you please, of what was found, where, when, and upon what occasion. For more publick satisfaction, and to facilitate the discovery, at least, to help such, as are minded to employ their skill in guessing and judging of the Creature, whose remains these are, what it was for kind; we have by, and with the help of an able Limner, advertised on a Scheme or Figure, of several of the Teeth and Bones, with their respective dimensions of breadth, length, and thickness.

No man, we conceive, not willing to be censured of rashness, will be very forward to divine, much less to define or determine, what the Creature

was; and, doubtless, dubious enough it is, whether of the twain, the Sea or the Land may more rightly lay claim unto it. But leaving all others to the freedom of their own judgments and conjectures; if he may have the same liberty from them for his, who, as he knows the place, with the Country about it, hath taken a large time of consideration of all particulars and circumstances fit to be duly and deliberately weighed and observed in the case; he would adventure to conjecture it to be some Marine, or Sea-bred Creature, to which the Land can of right lay no claim. But admitting that (supposing it, I mean, a Sea-bred Creature) how then (will some say) should it possibly come there? *Piscis in arido?* and at such a depth under ground too? I answer, first, with as little wonder as a Land-creature should, which who with reason# can imagine to have ever had at first so deep a burial? Next, I say, the Mould, Soil or Earth, wherein it lay, was altogether miry, like to that *cænum* ('oase,' some call it) on many parts of the Sea-coast, both in England, and abroad. But how possibly (will it be said) a Sea-creature, when found at so remote a distance from the Sea? For solution (if it may be) of this, and the like incidental doubts, and removing all rubs out of the way of this conjecture; our future discourse and further progress in this Argument, shall branch it self out into these four following Queries.

1. Whether the situation and condition, face and figure of the place, may possibly admit of the Sea's once insinuating it self thither?

2. Whether (that possibility being granted, or evinced) the Sea did ever actually insinuate it self so far as to this place, and when?

<4> 3. How in probability, and when this Valley or Level being once Sea-Land, should come to be so quite deserted and forsaken of the Sea, as it is at this day; the Sea not approaching by so many, a dozen Miles, or more?

4. By what means, the Sea once having its play there, this Creature comes to lodge, and be found so deep in the ground, and under such a shelving Bank.

1. As for the first, (the place's capacity and aptitude for the Sea's influx, or insinuation) such as know the situation, withal cannot but know, and must agree it to be so. As for Strangers, and such as are unacquainted with the place, for perfecting information in what either the common Maps, or a particular Scheme and Draught of the Level, herewith intended, may chance to be defective in; they may please to know, that the place (the *locus loci*) we

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are upon, is a part of that wide, fair, and fruitful Level, or Valley, extending it self not less than twenty Miles in length, between a continued series and range of Hills, Downs, or high Grounds, lying at a pretty distance each from other all the way; beginning at the East Kentish Shore, and stretching it self, West-ward, by Sandwich, Fordwich, Canterbury, Chartham, Chilham, Godmersham, Wy, Ashford, sometime in a direct, sometime in a winding course, as far at length, as to that famous spacious Level of Romney-Marsh, and is washed and watered all along, at least from about Ashford, by a sweet and pleasant River running through the midst of it, as far as to Sandwich, and there by the Creek or Haven, emptying it self into the Sea: nothing at all of obstruction, by the interposition of Hills, or high Grounds, hindring, or controlling the Sea's free play and passage for so many miles together. The place then, with the parts, the tract above and below it, from the condition or constitution of it, is plainly not unapt or incapable of the Sea's insinuation and influence.

<5> If any shall object, Canterbury's being in the way, as an obstruction or bar; they are easily enough answered. For although that City seemeth, and indeed is, at this day, for the most part somewhat elevated above the pitch of the rest of the Valley or Level, we are upon; yet not so much as to defend it self many times from floods and over-flowings in the lower, and most depressed parts of it, even by the Springs it stands upon, to her great damage and annoyance: towards the helping whereof, by the care and providence of former Ages, it is very certain, and by digging Wells, Vaults, Cellars, and the like, daily experimented, that the most part of the City, not excepting the very Heart and Centre of it, is made and raised Ground; the tokens of Foundations upon Foundations, to a very considerable depth, daily appearing,

and the ground (as at Amsterdam, Venice and elsewhere) for supporting Superstructures, in several places often stuck and stuff'd with Piles of Wood, or long Poles and Stakes forced into the ground, as Wells and Cellar-diggers have inform'd me. Nay, and as if, where about now the Bull-stake Market-place is kept, the River had sometime had its Course or Current, Pits and other like Tanners Utensils, have, not many years since, been met withal in digging for Cellars thereabouts. To this let me add, that my very next Neighbour in Castle-street, within these thirty Years, sinking a Cellar, did a good depth (five or six foot deep) light upon, and was put to some stop and stand in his work, by a strong and well couched arched piece of Roman Tile or Brick, which he was fain to take, or break, asunder, and remove, before he could proceed. Hereof I was an Eye-witness, and (for curiosity sake) took one of the Bricks or Tiles to my self, which, with some other like Roman remains, (some found in that which is my own Garden) I keep by me to this day. However then, Canterbury may now seem to stand in the Æstuary's way; yet time was when in probability it did not; when, I mean, the place, the Soil which now the City occupies, as the rest of the whole Valley both above and below it, was of too low a pitch to be an obstacle to it.

2. As to the second enquiry, (Whether, probably, the Sea did ever actually insinuate it self so far as to this place, and when) the answer is nothing so easie: Record of it we have none. The best and eldest account we have now of the Condition, Site, and Constitution of these our Eastern Parts and Tract, we owe to Julius Cæsar, and the Romans after him: from whom (alas) we have not the least spark of light to such a discovery; rather indeed the contrary; both the Sea-coast, and In-land parts, by his, and their relation, bearing in a manner one and the same Face and Figure then, as now. However, that the Level we are upon was sometime an Æstuary, or Arm of the Sea, several Criteria, or tokens are not wanting. For example; besides what may be argued and inferr'd from this parcel of strange Teeth and Bones now under consideration, much (as I conceive) there is of probability for it, resulting from our River's name of Stour, more anciently not seldom both called and written 'Æstur,' 'Æsture,' &c. which I doubt not to proceed and come from the Latin *Æstuarium*, and, in process of time, to have been corrupted and contracted into Sture and Stour; giving name in part to Stourmouth, a place (a Parish) about six Miles Eastward from Canterbury; so called from the River's disemboguing there into the Sea, or Salt-water flowing up thither: As also giving name to that Mannor of the Archbishop's, at this day and for some

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Ages past, called Westgate-Court, at Canterbury; but more anciently, as in the Conqueror's time, (witness Doomsday Book) called the Mannor of 'Esture' and 'Esturesate,' from its situation by the Sture or Stour. From which occasion, doubtless, the late Lord Finch's Seat in ——— about five or six Miles nearer to the Spring-head, at this day vulgarly miscalled East-Steward, is, of old, sometime called 'Esture,' sometime 'Et-sture.' From Saxon Monuments and Records, I could easily trace the name up to a very high date, by many examples.

But to leave that, and proceed to other Criteria; as by the Teeth and Bones now under consideration, we have an Instance on that side of the Valley for the probability of the Sea's quondam occupation of it; so I shall give you here another no less remarkable from the other, or opposite side of it. By credible relation and assurance, then, you may know, that at a place called Westbere, an obscure Village about three Miles from Canterbury, Eastward, lying under the Brow of the Hill stretching out by Upstreet, as far as to the West-end of Sarr-wall, by which you make your entrance into Thanet; upon the like occasion to that here at Chartham, (the digging, or sinking of a Well) at a very great depth, store of Oysters and other-like Shells, together with an Iron Anchor, firm and unimpaired, were found and turned up in our time. The like I have been told of an Anchor in our days, digged up at Broomdown, on the same side of the Level somewhat above Canterbury, Westward. And although I can at present instance only in these few on either side the Valley; yet haply, upon enquiry, other might be found for confirming our conjecture. And I shall desire and hope, that every ingenuous person will so far oblige and encourage me, as upon this overture to help me in this research and scrutiny, by impart=

ing to me, what either of his own knowledge, or credible relation from others, may conduce towards so noble a discovery.

3. Mean time let us entertain our selves with our third Query, and see if haply somewhat may not thence result adminicular, and suppletory to what may be defective and wanting in the former. Our third Query now is; how in probability, and when, this Valley or Level, being once Sea-land, should come to be so quite deserted, and forsaken of the Sea, as it is at this day, the Sea not approaching it by so many, a dozen Miles, or more? In answer whereof, I must needs say and grant, that in case this Level were once Sea, an Æstuary, I mean, or Arm of it; so very long it was ago, as we may not reasonably think, that Canterbury (whether as a City, or never so mean a *Pa= gus*, or Village) was then *in rerum natura*, or a place inhabited; which hap= ly it may have been, if not as long as Julius Cæsars days, yet undoubtedly not long after. For an account we have of it (as of some other places in Kent) in the Romans time, both from Ptolemy the Geographer, Antoninus's Itinerary, and elsewhere. Now (as was hinted e'rewhile) elder Records either of Kent, or of Britain, that we may confide in as Authentick, we have none that I know of before the Romans time: no written credible evidences to help us in this scrutiny. We must therefore either sit us down, and rest contented to throw off all further inquiry, or else cast about for information as we can. Such as are for this latter, will tell you, that the world (all know) is very aged, many thousand years old, and that many and manifold are the altera= tions, changes and mutations, which time hath made in several parts and quar= ters of the world, to the notice and discovery whereof, no written Record, or unwritten Tradition, at this day, can reach or direct us: Tradition it self (longer liv'd many times than any written evidence) failing us for age. Of <8> such a nature, they conceive, may this of the Æstuary be; so very ancient, as time hath quite worn out the memory of it, withdrawn all light from us, that might conduct us in the scrutiny, and left us as men in the dark, without either *vola* or *vestigium*, to stumble out our way, and rome and ramble at un= certainties. Such a one, haply, shall he be thought, that adventuring to conje= cture at the reason and occasion of the Sea's recess here, with an absolute va= lediction to the place of its wonted resort, shall pitch upon the Seas breaking, bursting and cleaving asunder that Isthmus, or Neck of Land, between Gaul and Britain, rendring the latter of the same Continent with the former; such things ('tis certain) have hapned elsewhere. Thus (saith Seneca) hath the Sea rent Spain from the Continent of Africk. Thus, (as he adds) by Deucalion's Flood, was Sicily cut from Italy. More instances of this kind may be found in Mr. Cambdens 'Cantium,' and elsewhere. And although there be no certain evi=

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dence of such an accident here, from ancient either Historians or Geogra= phers, yet is the thing so strongly and rationally argued, by him especially, as by Verstegan also, Twine, and others before him; and the conjecture back'd with such plenty and probable Criteria, by the former, that what others may think, I know not; but were I of the Jury, I should more than incline to con= cur with them who find for the Isthmus. Especially, when to the plenty of Ar= guments, mustered up by Mr. Cambden, I shall have contributed this one, by him and the rest omitted; which is, that by a received, constant Tradition, Romney-Marsh, that large and spacious Level, containing (saith Mr. Cambden) 14 Miles in length, and 8 in breadth, was sometime Sea-land, lying wholly under Salt water, and is therefore of some, not improperly called the Sea's Gift; which having, when time was, forsaken it, and withdrawn his wonted influence from it; the place thereupon become, and continues firm Land. And if I may guess at the time and occasion of both that, and our Canterbury Le= vel's recovery and riddance from the Sea, I shall (for my part, with submission to better judgments) be apt to pitch upon that of the Sea's breaking through, and, in time, working and washing away that Isthmus between Us and France. And then, whereas beforetime Romney Level (which had, and hath its Stours <9> too, or Æstuaría, as well as ours) and this other, not improbably (no high Lands, as we see, interposing for impeding their conjunction) were but one and the same Level, and lay under the Sea's and Salt waters tyranny; now + both the one and the other (the Sea having so much play and elbow room,

than formerly, by cleaving asunder the Isthmus) were rescued from it, and of an Æstuary, became such a rich and noble Valley or Level, as is second to none (I take it) in England.

I am resolved to keep home, and conceive my self no further concerned than in our own Level. But if from hence any other shall take an hint to consider of the Netherlands or Low Countries, and enquire whether those in whole, or in part, may not have risen out of, and conjecturally assigned for our Kentish Low-lands; I shall not at all wonder at it, thinking it (for my part) a task not unworthy a learned, judicious, sober undertaker: And were I as much concerned, and as well instructed there, as here, I should not know how to purge my self of negligence, if I did not undertake it with the first.

4. To come at length to the fourth and last of our Queries; By what means, the Sea once having its play there, (at Chartham) this Creature comes to lie and be found so deep in the ground, and under such a shelving Bank? My Answer is, That supposing this with the rest of the Level or Valley once occupied by the Sea or Salt water, that being a Creature which by fluxes and refluxes always is in motion, and thereby in time beating upon, and working it self into the Bank or rising-ground there, might at length so far undermine, eat into, and loosen it, as to fetch down so much Mould or Earth upon, or over the place, as to lodge the Creature at so great a depth. Or else perhaps, the continual agitation of the Water might, in time, force, drive up, and cast over it, that great quantity of Ouse, Earth, and other matter, under which it lay. By the way, it is observed, that the nature of the Soil, here and there, is such; so loose, supple, rotten and sandy, that meerly of it self, it is apt to sink and fall in; as was lately experienced by a Saw-pit, digg'd hard by, which after a little time, by the Earth's giving way on each side of it, fell in, and fill'd up it self.

<10> Thus have you (gentle Readers) our Chartham News, or Discoveries, with the Circumstances; and the use my little skill will serve me to make of them, in point either of History or Geography. *Arcana* they are; but whether *tanti*; whether, I mean, grateful, or useful to the Publick, is left to the judicious Antiquaries, Naturalists, &c. who are desired to take the matter where the Historian hath left it. It hath been the Finder's care and good will, as to preserve, so to expose and communicate what he hath found: and if at length, to this of the parts, and by them a full discovery of the whole, by the Skill and Dexterity of the Learned, in the School, and secrets of Nature, may be added, for the benefit of the Commonwealth of Learning; both the Finder and Relator will think their time and pains very well both bestowed and recompenced.

+ p. 190 l. 22, r. so much more.

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Reflections upon Chartham News.

MR. J. Luffkin (a) gives an Account of divers Bones of an extraordinary Bigness, found lately deep under Ground in a Gravel-pit, not far from Harwich in Essex: He supposeth them to be the Bones of an Elephant, not of an Hippopotamus, or other Marine Animal, as Mr. Somner doth conjecture those Bones to have been, which were found at Chartham. Mr. Luffkin in his Letter says, That 'Claudius landed at Rutupiæ near Sandwich, whether Richborough or Stoner, it matters not.' And that, 'His nearest Passage to the Thames, whither he was going, was indisputably through this Down of Chartham.'

We who live at or near Canterbury, have the advantage of being well acquainted with these Roads, both Ancient and Modern. The Roman Way from Rutupiæ, which beyond dispute was Richborough, to London, was through Durovernum to Durolevum, and so forward, as we are directed by the Tables of the Itinerary. Chartham-Downs lying about Three Miles or more Southward of Canterbury, cannot be the nearest Passage from Richborough either to London or the Thames: Nor have I ever seen any Footsteps upon Record, that the Romans, contrary to their usual Practice, did occasionally decline from the strait Road, to pass through these Downs in their Way to London.

Mr. Somner makes way for his supposed Sea-horse to come into these Parts, by suggesting that the River which now runs from Ashford through Chartham

and Canterbury to Sandwich, was in former Times an Æstuary. In this Conjecture he is seconded by the Learned Dr. Wallis, &c. (b). And there appears no reason why we should not subscribe to the same Opinion. For the more easy granting of an Æstuary to have been here, we may reasonably conclude that this whole Valley is much raised, partly by the Slime, Mud, Sand, and the like, which the Tide left behind and lodged here, when it withdrew it self by degrees, and partly by Earth from the adjacent Hills, which Rains, especially hasty Showers, did wash down in the long Tract of Time, (namely, several Hundred Years,) since the Æstuary hath ceased to flow. And the particular Place or Ground whereon the City is built, may be somewhat elevated above the pitch of the Valley or Level that is on either side of it, North or South, by the Care and Industry of the Inhabitants in former Ages, according to Mr. Somner. The Nature of the Soil, upon the digging of Wells and Cellars at this day, near the Course of the present River, does abundantly confirm this Observation.

I will add Three fresh Instances to those which Mr. Somner has given us concerning the digging of Vaults or Wells in this City. While they were digging a Cellar in St. Margaret's Parish, they met with a strong piece of Stone-work, about Five Foot under Ground: It was indented and so firm, that it resisted very strong Blows of the Workmens Tools. In sinking a Well in Lamb-Lane, as it is called, within about Two Rods and a half of the Current of the River, the Labourers were stopt at about 15 Foot deep, by a Piece of Timber that lay cross the place, until it was sawn asunder. It appeared by the Mortices that were in it, to have been the Groundsell of some old Building. They continued to dig deeper, till they came to a Spring arising from a Gravelly or Stony Soil: And the Water seems to be Mineral, so far as Gall or Oak-Leaves will give a Proof thereof. I had my information from the chief Workman who cut the foresaid Piece of Timber asunder in the Well. Upon the digging of a Cellar on the West-side of the Gate going into Christ-Church, near the Market-place, about Ten Foot under Ground, a Well was discovered not many Years since, which is about Twelve Foot deep, with a Curb to it.

(a) Philosoph. Transact. Numb. 274. (b) See Philosoph. Transactions for the Year 1701.

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Mr. Somner mentions some Pits, discovered not many Years since, about the place where the Market is now kept; and intimates from thence, as if the River had some time had its Current thereabouts: It seems probable that these were Roman Cisterns. In fine, he that would search for the Roman Antiquities of this City, must seek for them, so far as he can, *in Cantuaria subterranea*, that is, under Ground.

We are inform'd by the Philosophical Transactions, That Two of the Teeth mentioned in this Treatise, are in the Repository at Gresham College; I can further certify, That another of them is in the Possession of Mr. Alderman Grey at Canterbury, and the Fourth of them is in the Library of Christ-Church, or at least a Tooth very like to one of them; which was repositied there, together with several other Rarities, by the Reverend Dr. Bargrave.

A POSTSCRIPT.

July 30. 1703.

Since the abovesaid Reflections or Observations have been sent to the Press, there have been made some fresh Discoveries of Subterranean Roman Works in this City. As in digging a Cellar in the Parish of St. Elphage, the Workmen came to an Old Foundation of Roman Bricks, so strongly cemented, that they could not break it without much difficulty. It was Indent-wise, broad four Foot and four Inches, deep about four Foot, and about 8 Foot under Ground. Several of the Bricks were taken up whole. They were 17 Inches and a half long, and 11 Inches and three quarters of an Inch Broad; hereof I was an Eye-witness. I have been also informed, That a little within St. George's-Gate, where a new House is now Building, in digging the Cellar, the Workmen

came to an Arch, firm and solid, which they broke to pieces: And that in a Garden near adjoining, there was found a Pavement of broad free-stone several Foot under Ground: In Mercery Lane, in digging a Cellar, an Oven with Wood-coals in it, and Wood by it, was found, about 7 Foot under Ground, with two large broad Stones not far from it, lying one upon another, and in the middle of the upper Stone a Mortice-hole. In Lamb Lane, in a Well just by the River-side there are two Stones, laid there in former Ages by Art, so firm and heavy, as they could not be removed. The Workmen from the bigness and shape of them, call them Tomb-stones. And I am told of a Roman Pavement, of Mosaick Work, (whereof I have some of the little square Stones by me) discovered in digging a Cellar in St. Margaret's Parish. These Instances do confirm, That the Roman Antiquities of this City are to be searched for from 6 to 9 Foot under Ground; and that by future Searches and Enquiries Time may produce a fuller Knowledge of these Matters.

FINIS.

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<replica of Somner's plate>

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<Anyone interested in this pamphlet should be sure to consult the original. Battely's text is not as accurate as it might be: a word is missing here and there, and one whole line has been dropped. (At 190/29 read 'and <been gained from the Sea, by the very same occasion, which is here> conjecturally'.) But his comments are perhaps of some interest. By this time, of the four teeth mentioned by Somner, three (not two) were in London, in the museum of the Royal Society at Gresham College (Grew 1681); perhaps Mr Alderman Grey had got the fourth of them. As for the tooth in Dr Bargrave's cabinet of curiosities, that is still in existence, with the rest of the collection, in the cathedral archives. The online catalogue identifies it as a hippopotamus tooth (CANCA-B/37), and suggests that it came from Italy (a place which Bargrave had visited). The idea that this might be one of the teeth from Chartham was, so it seems, just a guess (and not a good guess) on Battely's part. – C.F. April 2011.>