

V.—Notes on recent excavations on the supposed site of the Artemisium, near the Lake of Nemi, made by Sir John Savile Lumley, G.C.B. By R. P. PULLAN, F.S.A.

Read June 25, 1885.

THE following brief observations have reference to a remarkable discovery that has very recently been made by Sir John Savile Lumley, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, near the lake of Nemi. The excavations which he has carried on at that spot simultaneously with those at Cività La Vigna,—about which you have lately had a paper submitted to you,^a—have apparently resulted in the identification of the site of the Artemisium—the shrine of Diana Aricina.

Antiquaries of all countries have long disagreed about the exact site of that celebrated edifice. Nibby—the great authority on ancient sites in the environs of Rome—supposed the temple of Diana to have been situated on an eminence overlooking the lake where now stands the village of Nemi.^b Canina, in his work on the Campagna, gives an imaginary restoration of the temple, placing it on the road between Genzano and Nemi, on the right hand of the lake looking from Genzano towards Nemi.

Our fellow-countryman, the accomplished antiquary Sir William Gell,^c made a shrewder guess. Still it was only a guess. After describing the remains of the *cella* of a small temple, which lies in the valley of Aricia immediately below the modern town, he suggests that the possibility of this being the ruin of the temple of Diana is worth noting. A second suggestion was however nearer the mark. In his description of the lake of Nemi he says, “Near the margin of the lake a little bay indents the shore on the north of the village of Nemi. At the

^a *Archaeologia*, vol. XLIX. pp. 367-381.

^b Nibby, *Dintorni di Roma*, vol. i. pp. 254, 255; vol. ii. pp. 395, 397.

^c *Topography of Rome and its vicinity*, by Sir W. Gell, F.S.A. Edited by Bunbury, 1846.

head of the bay, at the only cultivable spot close to the water, is found a species of quadrilateral peribolus within which two of the walls of a *cella* yet remain of ten or twelve feet in height. Had this been constructed with such materials as might be supposed coeval with the ancient temple of Diana, the question of the position of that building would no longer admit of a doubt: it consists however of *opus reticulatum* (of which style it is a good specimen), and is without any traces of the massive blocks of a more ancient edifice.”

It was reserved for Sir John Savile Lumley however to dispel all doubt and to solve the question by the employment of that useful little implement the spade; for on digging beneath these walls of *opus reticulatum* he discovered the basement of a fine building constructed with massive blocks of *opus quadratum* adorned with bold mouldings of a very early period. From the evidence afforded by the architecture and by the inscriptions found amongst the ruins there is now hardly any doubt that he has resolved this great antiquarian problem by the discovery of the real site of the Artemisium.

The position of the Giardino del Lago, where the excavations are being carried on, corresponds with Strabo's description of the site of the temple, though on account of the mutilation of the texts that description is rather confused. He says:^a—

“On one side of the way is Lanuvium On the other side is the Artemisium, which is called Nemus, on the left side of the way leading from Aricia to the temple The temple is in a grove, and before it is a lake of considerable size. The temple and water are surrounded by abrupt and lofty precipices, so that they seem to be situated in a deep and hollow ravine.”^b

The garden of the lake answers this description in every respect. The lake lies in the crater of an extinct volcano. Its sides are so precipitous that it is only practicable to descend to the borders of the water by winding paths in the garden of the Palazzo Cesarini, or on the north side near Nemi, where the little bay and cultivated spot of ground mentioned by Gell exists. The ancient approach to the Giardino del Lago was by a road which runs below the convent of the Cappucini, which has substructions of *opus reticulatum*.

In the sixteenth century numerous timbers were found in the lake near the Giardino. These were at first supposed to be the remains of an ancient ship of

^a Strabo, bk. v. c. iii. § 12.

^b The term Artemisium would seem to be more properly applied to the Temple than to the Grove. The Temple of Apollo Smintheus was called the Sminthium, that of Apollo Grynaeus Grynium.

great size, but Nibby, upon an examination of the timber and tiles which were brought to light in his time, came to the conclusion that these were the remains of an ancient villa,^a which Suetonius says was commenced upon the lake by Cæsar,^b who in a fit of caprice ordered it to be pulled down before it was complete.^c The road above-mentioned probably led to the villa as well as to the temple of Diana.

The Artemisium was celebrated for many reasons. In the first place for its antiquity, for tradition relates that it was founded by Hippolytus, the son of Theseus, after his resuscitation by Æsculapius.^d

In the second place because the rites celebrated in it were barbarous and Scythic like those of the Tauric Diana. Human sacrifices were offered in it, and the high priest was always a fugitive slave who had succeeded in killing his predecessor. Near the temple stood a tree, and if a fugitive could break off a bough of it he was entitled to the privilege of fighting a duel with the existing priest, and if he conquered of being elected in his stead, and of succeeding to the title of *Rex Nemorensis*. He thus became a noted champion, and when the brutal Caligula was in want of sport he procured an antagonist to fight with the then reigning *Rex*, who had for many years enjoyed the honours of the priesthood.

In 1791 a fine slab of frieze of archaic character, representing the issue of such a combat, was found at Valarriccia. On the ground lies the vanquished official with his entrails protruding from a wound in his side; over him stands the victor with the fatal sword in his grasp, surrounded by four females in Etruscan robes, who seem to be rejoicing in his success and giving thanks to the gods for it.

This fine piece of sculpture was carried off to Russia soon after its discovery and unfortunately cannot be traced.

As the place where the slab was found was in the valley of Aricia, about two miles from the Lago di Nemi, and not far from the ruins of the *cella* already mentioned, its discovery gave rise to the theory entertained by Gell and other antiquaries that those ruins were the remains of the temple of Diana Aricina.^e

^a Nibby, vol. ii. p. 396.

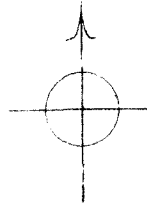
^b Suet., *Cæs.* 46.

^c There is a large piece of timber from this structure preserved in the British Museum.

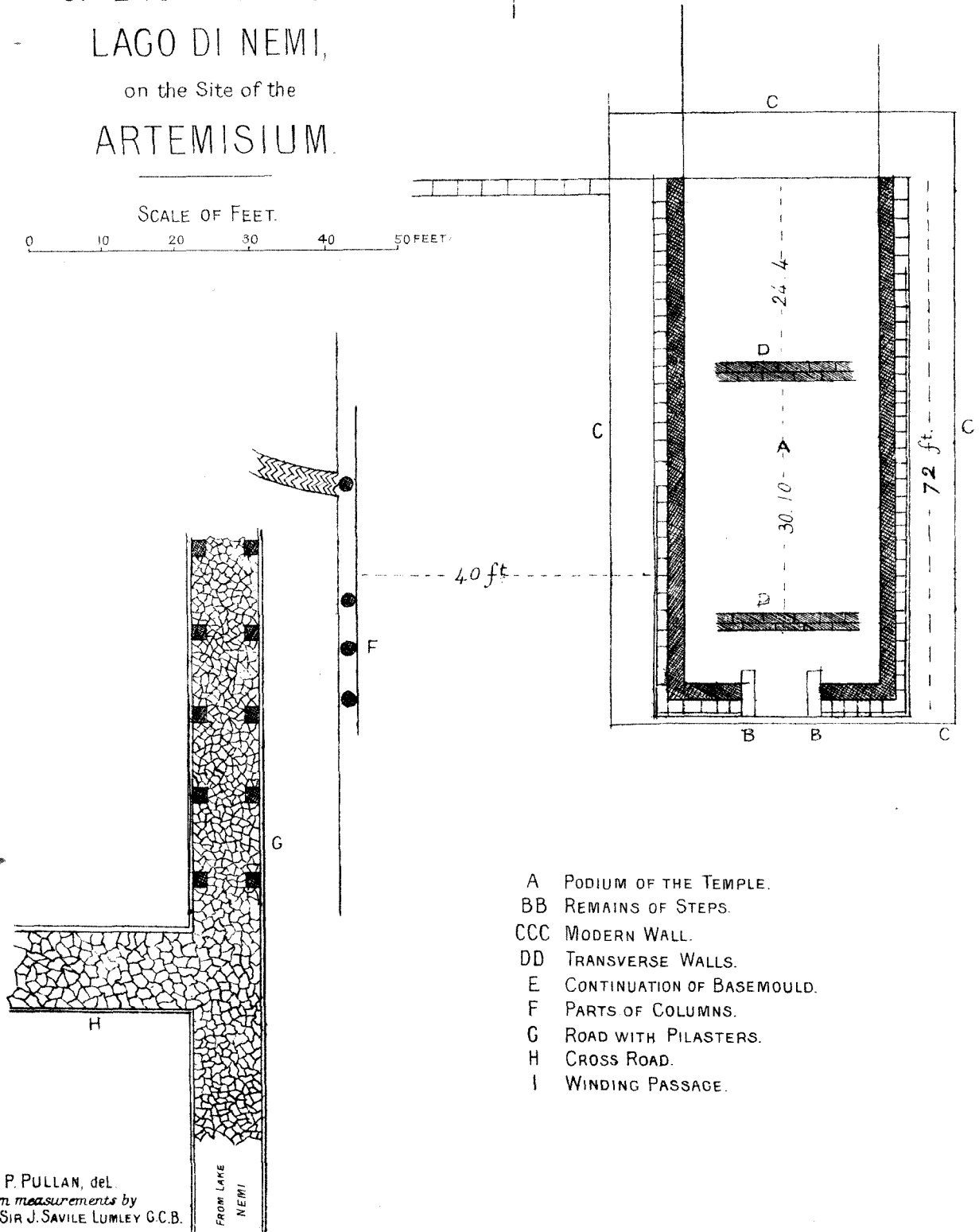
^d Paus. ii. 27, § 4.

^e Some antiquaries suppose that there were two temples dedicated to Diana, one at Aricia, the other at Nemi, although it is not likely that there would be two celebrated shrines of the same goddess within two or three miles of one another; besides, Salmasius says, "Latini Aricinæ Dianæ templum proprie vocabant Nemus . . . Ex his locis constat Nemus proprie vocatum fuisse templum illud Dianæ Aricinæ quod in nemoribus positum esset." Sir W. Gell goes so far as to apply the

PLAN
OF EXCAVATIONS AT
LAGO DI NEMI,
on the Site of the
ARTEMISIUM.



SCALE OF FEET.



- A PODIUM OF THE TEMPLE.
- BB REMAINS OF STEPS.
- CCC MODERN WALL.
- DD TRANSVERSE WALLS.
- E CONTINUATION OF BASEMOULD.
- F PARTS OF COLUMNS.
- G ROAD WITH PILASTERS.
- H CROSS ROAD.
- I WINDING PASSAGE.

R. P. PULLAN, del.
from measurements by
SIR J. SAVILE LUMLEY G.C.B.

FROM LAKE
NEMI

In the spring of last year I obtained from Prince Orsini permission to excavate on part of his property near Cività La Vigna, where there were some remains of a villa of Caligula. We found that the ruins extended about a quarter of a mile in each direction, and that they contained baths, with a fine hypocaust, and several chambers with mosaic and marble pavements. Pieces of fine sculpture were also discovered but they were very fragmentary. As the ground had evidently been disturbed before, and as numerous old olive-trees interfered with extensive operations, Sir John Lumley decided this year to abandon the *scavi* and to dig near some ruins which existed near the lake of Nemi, at the other extremity of the Prince's estate.

Sir John Lumley had often speculated as to the real site of the Artemisium, and no doubt he fixed upon this spot as that which was the most promising.

The following brief account of his operations as far as they have gone, compiled from his letters, together with an inspection of the various sketches and photographs which he has so kindly sent me, will enable you, I trust, to obtain a clear idea of the nature of the ground and the character of the buildings which he has discovered. They will also probably convince you that he has succeeded in the realization of his wishes, viz., the identification of the site of the Artemisium.

The Giardino del Lago, where Sir John Lumley began his excavations, is a large quadrangle about 300 metres square, two sides of which are bounded by very large niches of *opus incertum*, measuring eight metres in height and six metres across, with semi-domes over them. Twenty-eight of these niches are still in existence. In front of the niches at a distance of about four metres there is a wall ten metres high, forming a terrace. Two sides only of the enclosure remain. Trenches were opened in front of these niches, and at a distance of thirty feet from them numerous terra-cotta *ex votos* were found, chiefly heads with a great variety of head-dresses, hands and feet of different dimensions; amongst them were two rude representations of a horse and a cow and two or three anatomical figures. These were evidence of the existence of a temple in the vicinity, for when the temples became crowded with votive offerings, such as these terra-cotta figures, it was the custom for the priests to bury them. There were altogether

...

description given by Vitruvius of the temple of Nemi to the small temple of which there are some slight remains at Aricia. "Nemori Dianæ columnis adjectis dextra ac sinistra ad humeros pronai," and gives a ground plan of his idea of what the restoration of it should be. (See *Topography of Rome and its vicinity*, by Sir W. Gell, revised by E. H. Bunbury, 1846.

between three and four hundred of these *ex votos* dug up. Those shown on Plate VIII. are fair specimens of them.

Soon after this discovery Sir John Lumley commenced operations in the centre of the vast enclosure, and was soon gratified by finding the remains of a building of splendid masonry on the plan of a parallelogram. (Plate VII.)

He was able to trace the basement of this edifice for a distance of seventy-two feet on the east side and about half that length on the west. This basement consisted of a bold cyma having a projection of about two feet, backed by blocks of tufa. This no doubt formed part of the podium of a fine temple which inscriptions proved to be the long-sought shrine of Diana Aricina.

The inscriptions that were found among the ruins may be classified according to the date of the characters in which they are inscribed.

The earliest is cut in fine bold letters on a slab of marble so much broken that the word **LATON** alone remains. This evidently formed part of the name of Latona, the mother of Artemis, who was worshipped in temples dedicated to her daughter.

Another fragment of the marble called Verde Ranachia has, in deeply-cut letters almost as fine as those in the inscription first mentioned,

P · AVTRO . . .
I · F · CO

A third inscription is on a leaden pipe—

P · AMPHILVS · AUG · SER · FEC

A fourth, on a much-worn slab surrounded by a moulding, runs thus—

L · PONTIVS . . .
O · PETRE
C · PVPII · I
M · L · AVG . . .
L · ACC
. . . EC



The Phototype Coy.

EX VOTOS, *from the* ARTEMISIUM, near Lake Nemi.

A fifth, on a well-preserved slab (Plate IX.), has a dedication to Vespasian—

IMP · CAESARI
VESPASIANO · AVG ·
PONTIF · MAX · TR · POT · II ·
IMP · VI · P · P · COS · III · DESIG · IIII ·
VLVSQVE · ARI

A sixth inscription, in characters of a much later period than those already given, proves the existence of a shrine of Diana on this spot—

.....
M · MANLLIO · DOMESTICO ·
L · OPPVNEIO · AVGVRINO · XII T · VOLTEDIO · INDICTORE · II · ...
MARCELLO C LVCILIO · PIO

Then follows a distich hexameter and pentameter—

VNVS ES EX SACRIS CVI PARENT · DONA · DIANA
QVOD TRIBVIT · POPVLVS · RESTITVIS · POPVLO

A seventh is on a square label cut on the face of a marble column. It reads as follows:—

.....
AD HORREAS EM ·
AD BALNEVM · VETVS
IN QVATTVOR
PLVMBI · PONDO LXIII
E · FLABELLA · NIDEM
DONVS · PRO · SE · ET · SVIS

Further excavations brought to light several pieces of a beautiful carved cornice in white marble ornamented with a Greek honeysuckle and other enrichments (Plate IX.)—this is fine in style and of early date—several terra-cottas, principally *antifixae*, and parts of small friezes. Two of the most noticeable are figures of females in low relief, wearing the tiara, and draped in the stola or chiton, with archaic folds and terminating in feathers. Each figure holds in each hand the paw of a lion, the other paw rests upon her breast. One of these figures is shown on Plate IX. These terra-cottas have been coloured; the upper gar-

ment has traces of red colour, the lower of alternate red and blue. Amongst the *ex votos* there are two or three representing anatomically either some internal disease or childbirth, from which it would appear that the priests of the shrine acted as surgeons or doctors. (See Plate VIII.)

On digging on the south side of the podium Sir John Lumley found traces of the steps which led from the level of the *temenos* to that of the peristyle. He also laid bare two transverse walls of *opus quadratum* laid with headers and stretchers; one 9·50 metres from the northern wall, and the other 7·50 metres further to the south. He also traced the fine basemould to a length of 40 feet at right angles to the north-east corner of the parallelogram of masonry. At about the same distance to the west and parallel to the main building he discovered a road laid with basalt running between a colonnade of square pilasters of excellent masonry. This road, which was paved with two layers of large blocks, led in the direction of the lake, and had a cross road of similar character but without pilasters leading into it. A curved passage paved with herring-bone tiles seems to have joined the covered road leading thence to the temple.

But the most interesting architectural features are three capitals which lie abacus downwards within the colonnade. From a rough sketch that has been sent to me it appears that these capitals are of the Doric order, but the sketch is not sufficiently clear to enable me to decide whether they are of Greek or Roman character. There is a square abacus with a rather flat ovolo and listels beneath it. The flutes, which finish some inches beneath the listels, seem to be semicircular in plan and to have fillets between them. If they should be of Greek character they will go far to prove that either the temple itself or the inclosure of the *temenos* was of the time of the Republic, as the Greek Doric order was seldom employed during the Empire. The lower order of the theatre of Marcellus is however an exception, as it is decidedly Greek in style. There is a small Greek Doric temple dedicated to Hercules crowning the hill upon which stands the Volcian town of Cori. This is apparently of late date, as the columns are much attenuated. Sebastiano Serlio, in his *Libra Terza d' Architettura*, 1562, page 72, gives an engraving of a Greek Doric column, with its entablature, which he says "fu trovato fuori di Roma sopra il fiume detto Teverone al ponte Nomentano." The examples of this style are however rare and belong to an early period. The capitals found at Nemi measure 2 feet 4 inches in diameter at the necking, therefore they could not have been much more than eighteen feet high. This seems too small a dimension for the columns of the temple. I therefore conclude that they belonged to the colonnade of the peribolus.



1.



2.

The Phototype Coy.

1. Portion of a Terra-cotta Frieze.

2. Inscription, and a portion of a White Marble Cornice.

From the ARTEMISIUM,
near Lake Nemi.

The flutes of these drums of columns terminate abruptly at a short distance from the necking of the capitals, and in one instance the flutes are carved on one side only. But this is no proof that that part of the edifice to which they belonged was left incomplete. For in many of the most celebrated temples of antiquity parts were left unfinished. I found in the temple of Minerva Polias, at Priene, that some of the bases were left uncarved, and in the temple of Apollo Branchidae, that one at least of the columns was left in block.

In addition to the terra-cottas, above one hundred bronze coins of various dates, a Samian cup with perfect glaze, the bronze latch of a lock, and various other small articles were found in the course of the *scavi*.

Sir John Savile Lumley is continuing the excavations with great vigour, and I hope by the commencement of the next session to be enabled to lay before you full details of the results of his discovery, which promises to be one of the most important of modern times.

^a Since this paper was read, further proof of the truth of Sir Savile Lumley's surmise, that this was the site of the Artemisium, has been afforded by the discovery of a bronze implement of sacrifice, with the word *DIANA* inscribed upon it, and also of seventeen bronze statuettes of female figures, with buskins, bows, and quivers, the apparel of the huntress Diana. Eight hundred coins of Republican times have also been dug up, which help to confirm my conjecture as to the early date of the temple.