

Ancient Remains in the Crimea.

We are indebted to the *Aristol Mercury* for the following notice of an interesting lecture, delivered in that city by the gallant Colonel of the 39th Regiment:—

On Thursday evening week Lieutenant-Colonel Munro delivered a lecture at the Philosophical Institution, on the subject of the remains of an ancient building, supposed to be an ancient temple, discovered near the British head-quarters in the Crimea.—The lecture was illustrated by drawings, and by an immense variety of specimens of ancient coins, fragments of vases, amphorae, cups, &c., found amongst the ruins, and which the gallant officer had brought with him. Colonel Munro remarked that he had brought home the relics to be deposited in the British Museum, in the belief that they would interest the inhabitants of the neighborhood in which he had spent many happy years of his life, as he wished the inhabitants to see them; and, it being suggested that he should say a few words upon them to the literary society connected with the institution, he readily did so. He had since been requested to exhibit them in the theatre, and he was there to comply with that request. The scene where the discoveries to which he should draw their attention were made was now well known through the world. Some years ago names too well remembered by many of them, such as Balaklava, Inkermann, &c., were comparatively unknown in England; but there could be no question that, from time immemorial the Crimea had been a notorious country. It was referred to by Homer in both his works, the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*; there is no question that it was upon the opposite coast that the host of Xerxes was destroyed by the army of the Greeks, or that on its own shores some of the most famous events of remote history were transacted. After pursuing this portion of his subject, and referring to some mention by the early historians of the Diana of the Crimea, explaining that "Diana of Kherson," like Hecate, was a synonym of cruelty, the Colonel described, by a chart, the positions taken up by the allied armies, mentioning that Lord Raglan might have been led to make his descent upon Balaklava by his knowledge of ancient history. He then proceeded—After the allied armies had taken Sebastopol, on the 8th of September, they had a relief for a few days, the most peculiar feeling connected with which arose from the absence of noise. Instead of hearing the incessant roar of artillery, and the constant hissing of cannon balls, there was comparative silence, amidst which they had time to lament those who had been lost, and to indulge a hope that the services of those who survived would have met with a better and warmer reception at home. Colonel Munro expressed his disappointment at the criticisms which had been indulged in, and assured his hearers that the soldiers of England deserved the warmest thanks and deepest gratitude of the nation, (cheers.) Never were troops subjected to greater hardships, never did men manifest more devoted courage, more indomitable perseverance. For five nights a week would brave fellows go into the trenches, exposed to the enemy's fire, and the next day they would not have had time to cook their dinner meal before they went into the trenches again. The French might be, and were good soldiers, but they never could have stood the labor in the trenches as our men did. Our men had sometimes

only a night's rest in bed, while the French had eight nights in to one out. And then as to the Redan, he himself heard a French general say that he stood in dread lest the English should have made another attack, as the Russians were in such immense numbers behind it that there would not have been a man of the attacking force left. The gallant lecturer then explained the discovery of the remains. The men were employed in making roads, at which some 8000 soldiers were working, and, as they did not very well like the labour, it became necessary for the superior officers to keep amongst them. He had 400 men under him, one of whom in digging turned up a coin of Romanus; soon after another was found, and then, in excavating further, they came upon a large stone, which, finding that it was wrought on all sides, he knew must have been of some use and importance. In pursuing his researches, he traced out what he was convinced were the remains of a temple. It was an oblong walled inclosure and measuring 150 feet by 93 feet, and it had at one end a circular form. Its walls, which were 10 feet in thickness, comprised a cyclopean wall and an inner wrought wall. He (Colonel Munro) applied to the Commander-in-chief on the subject, and was told that he might have 50 men to pursue his investigation, and he accordingly chose some from his own regiment and went to work. He soon found a piece of sculpture, part of the lower legs of a figure, but it was far from being good: he also found a reclining figure, similar to those which were always found upon the tombs of persons who had died on the Bosphorus; it was of the rudest execution. After some days they found a well having traces of some painting, which was not sufficiently perfect to be made out. They then came to a stone having groves in it, as if for a liquid to run off, and he felt satisfied it had been a sacrificial stone. They also found sixteen vessels all having different capitals, and in all of which were different descriptions of soil, a few bones and more charcoal. Upon digging down to the building he found but at only some 2 feet beneath the surface, parts of a human skeleton, which was, doubtless, of much later date than the building. The vessels could not have held fluids, as they were most of them joined together with lead, and in every one of them he found what some had supposed to be weights, but what he believed were tesserae, a sort of invitation card, used upon visiting. One of these capitals was found sixteen feet below the level of the soil of the mound, so that it must have been coeval with the building. He also found a peculiar stone, with two holes worked out in it, and in which the victims probably placed their feet when the sacrifices were human. All around the building he found enormous quantities of amphorae, which were used by the ancients for carrying and storing oil, grain, &c. Those amphorae were long, vase-shaped vessels of coarse clay, peculiarly formed, having double handles; indeed he could find nothing exactly like them in the museums at London or Paris. From their shape and form they were probably of Assyrian origin, and most likely the temple was an outlying temple from Kherson. The gallant Colonel then exhibited various specimens of pottery, glass, beads, coins, &c., and proceeded to discuss the probable date of the temple, which he himself believed might have been dedicated to Diana, and whose date he ascribed, from the coins and other evidences, to from 350 to 450 B. C. He exhibited grotesque fragments of

incense vessels, iron remains of spear tops, and other matters, and also an exceedingly graceful Grecian female head in terra cotta, which Mr. Hawkins of the British Museum, and others who had seen, and pronounced to be one of the most beautiful specimens of Grecian art in Europe, if not in the world. This head, the gallant Colonel said had been presented to Queen Victoria in the name of the British army, and he had therefore only a permissive possession of it. It was found by a soldier, whose pickaxe happening to hit in the mould hole on the head, brought it up without injury. The head was bound with laurel, and was probably that of Astarte, or of some deity. Colonel Munro also exhibited a number of fibulae which he had found in the walls, some flint arrow and spear tops, and a number of flints. He said he had also collected a large box of bones of the smaller ruminant animals, such as sheep, kids, &c., and which were probably the remains of sacrifices. The coins found by him were admitted to be of rare value, some of them unique. They bore effigies of Minerva, Pan, Apollo, Diana; many had letters forming part of the word "Kherson," and some a griffin, the emblem of Pantacopaeum. The dates ranged from about 450 down to 330 B. C.; then there was a long interval, after which they ranged from 300 to about 950 A. D. On the handles of most of the vessels was the name of an officer who used to have charge of the fountains, drains, &c., which officer ceased to exist when the Greek cities ceased to be free. The gallant Colonel next called attention to some geological specimens he had brought home. People had been ready to cry out that roads were the first things that the armies ought to have made upon entering the Crimea, but he did not think that would say so. Nothing could be conceived harder than the stones which had to be worked through in making English trenches. The French were more fortunate, and got into a bed of sand, which enabled them to get close into the Malakoff; and the English had intended going nearer the Redan, but were prevented by the difficulties of the work. He had seen men work hard, without being able to get through more than 8 or 9 inches in a day. They worked without flinching, the shot flying over them, and even the Russians respected their unswerving courage and indomitable perseverance. The gallant Colonel went on to observe that no one could have foreseen the necessity for making roads, and said nothing could be more unfair or unjust than to accuse Lord Raglan for not having foreseen it. He also spoke of the failure of the attack on the Redan, which he said reflected no discredit on the British arms. The French might probably have done as well, but they could not have done better. Colonel Munro then exhibited the picture of the *Salvator Mundi* found in Sebastopol, and which we have already described as having been exhibited at the Graphic Society's soiree, and also a clock taken from one of the houses in that town; and he concluded by expressing a hope that from the discoveries he had been enabled to make, something had been learnt in history and geology.

A wicked wag of a lawyer, in one of our country courts, recently scandalized the bench by putting the following query to the professional brethren:—Why is Judge—, like necessity? The members of the bar then and there quickly answered, "Because he knows no law."