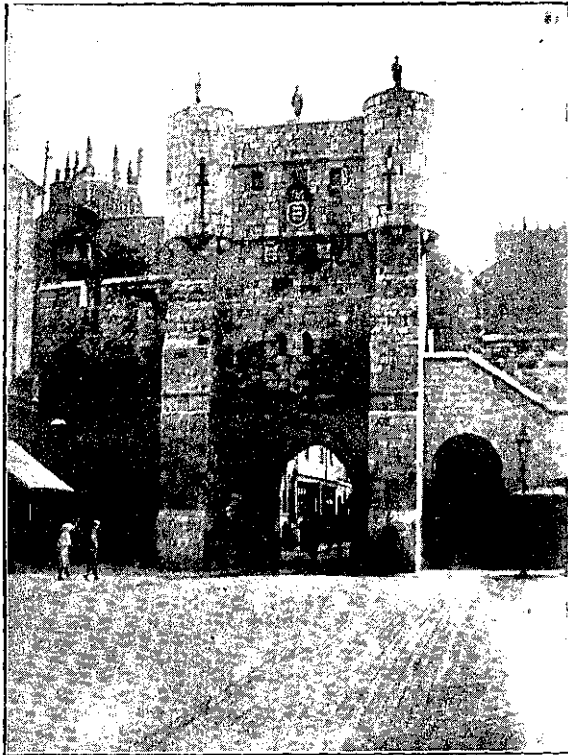


one it was, by the Danes. Even to-day, the Yorkshire villages, East and North of the town, are full of Danish faces, and their language is rich in Danish words.

Caer Ebranc was the British name, taken from the Roman Eburacum; it stood at the head of the British cities, Caer Ceint (Canterbury) being second, and Caer Londene a long way down the list.

The legends of King Arthur's day

their occupation, their chief pleasure seems to have been in destruction; but the glorious work of levelling the city with the ground was never so thoroughly and satisfactorily performed as by William the Conqueror. In his day the suburbs extended one mile outwards every way, and York was "fair as the City of Rome from the beauty and magnificence of its buildings"; but William was very thorough in all



Eotham Bar is on the Site of the principal Roman Gate.

tell us that he was then at the head of the British forces, and that it was in this city the first British Christmas was celebrated, the king and his people observing the festival, as the shocked historian relates, "in a spirit of heathenish revelry with feasting and mirth, in wantonness and many excesses!" Here's to him! But it is difficult to get any real facts of this period.

The Danes and Saxons have left but few relics to mark the period of

that he undertook, and by the time he had finished, there was not one inhabited house between Durham and York, and for nine years afterwards neither plough nor spade were put into the ground! Poor York, one need hardly say, was once more a heap of ruins, among which another jolly Christmas was celebrated by the hero and his friends, and it is from these gentlemen that everyone of importance now claims descent!