

ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS DISCOVERED IN BRITAIN IN 1878.

BY W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

Since my last annual paper on this subject, about a score of inscriptions and fragments have been made public, as recently found, some of them of considerable interest.

At the very commencement of the year, there was found at Carlisle, in Annetwell street, some twenty or thirty yards south of the great Roman Wall, the figure of a Genius carved in stone, bearing a cornucopia in the left hand, and holding a patera on the top of an altar with the right, as if in the act of pouring out a libation. The figure, which is a half length only, is, including the base, thirteen inches in height. On the base is a nearly obliterated inscription in three lines. All that can be made out of it appears to be :—

· · · · · C · · ·
· · DOMVS · F ·

I am indebted to Mr. H. B. Dodd, of Carlisle, for a drawing of the figure, and to Mr. R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A., for a copy of the inscription. The figure is very similar to Nos. 708, 711, and 775, in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*.

Since then a most interesting sculptured tombstone has been found in the same city, evidently of a worshipper of Mithras, but it bears no inscription.

At Cross Canonby (Cumberland) there was found during the summer, in digging a grave in the churchyard, the lower portion of a Roman inscribed altar. The only letters visible were :—

* * * * *
* VS . PRAEFE *
* OH . I . DELM .

The altar has been erected to some Deity, whose name is lost, by tus, Praefect of the 1st cohort of the

Dalmatians (*Delmatarum*). This cohort, we know from other inscriptions, was in the reign of Antoninus Pius stationed in the neighbouring large *castrum* at Maryport. There are the lower portions of letters above * V S . P R A E F F E * but too slight to be intelligible.

A stone has recently been added to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Museum, brought from Alnwick, and which is believed to have been discovered in the neighbourhood of the large Roman *castra* at High Rochester and Risingham. It is a portion of a tombstone, and bears a very puzzling fragment of an inscription as follows :—

M
CCA
XITVITA
NA ANNIS
XXX

In the first line there is a complete blank before and after the M, so that it has doubtless been part of the formula D. M. It seems as if the commencement of the others was broken off, unless it be the fifth. There are at least one or two letters missing at the commencement of the fourth line.

Near the camp at High Rochester also there was ploughed up in 1876 a stone with a pedimental head, and bearing the inscription :—

D. M.
FELICIO LIBERTI
VIXIT ANNIS
XX.


It is plainly erected to the shades of a young man whose name was either Felicius or Felicio. Dr. Hübner suggests the latter name, taking Felicio as an abbreviation for the genitive Felicionis, and thus making Liberti agree with it, the translation being : “To the divine shades of Felicio, a freedman. He lived twenty years.” On the assumption that Felicio is the dative of Felicius (a name which occurs at York) *Liberti* would have to be taken as the nominative plural, and the translation would be : “To the divine shades. To Felicius. The freedmen (erected this). He lived twenty years.” The stone is preserved at Redesdale Cottage, Otterburn, Northumberland (the residence of the late Mr. Lawson), and I am indebted to his heir, Mr. William Hodgson, for a sketch of it.

At *Vindolana* (Chesterholm) on the Wall, a stone has been found inscribed:—

P O L V
L

This appears to have been all that ever was inscribed on the stone. Another stone, found at the same place, would seem to be Christian, and post Roman, and though not strictly in keeping with this paper, I venture to give its inscription which is fragmentary, as I doubt whether any other inscription of the same period has been found on the line of the Wall.

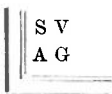
BRICOVVACLOS
IACIT
IS



The word *jacit* at once stamps it as post Roman, the name is truly barbaric and what word *IS* is the last portion of, it is impossible to say, unless (*ann*)*is* has been intended. These stones are now standing under the verandah at the cottage on the site of the station.

Another stone found earlier, and now standing, stacked with other remains in the garden, is the lower left hand corner of a large and important tablet, but unfortunately the only letters remaining are:—

SV
AG



The inscription has been flanked with *peltae* and other ornaments, fragments of which remain. It is probable, I think, that these lines when entire, read:—

SV(B . SEXTO . CALPVRNIO)
AG(RICOLA . LEG . AVG . PR . PR)

Inscriptions bearing the name of this Imperial Legate occur in this neighbourhood.

I am indebted to A. D. Berrington, Esq., Pant-y-Goitre, Abergavenny, for copies of these three last inscriptions.

At the recently excavated Roman *castrum* at South Shields several discoveries have been made. In June a



Monument to "Regina" found at South Shields.

fragment of red sandstone, about six inches long, which was found, bore the inscription :—

SENILIS

evidently the *cognomen* (a well known one) of some individual.

In October a jet ring was discovered, bearing upon it the inscription :—

[CPS]

But by far the most important discovery at this station took place on the 19th October, in digging for the foundations of a wall in Bath street. It was that of a tombstone, 4 feet 5 inches in height, and 2 feet 3½ inches broad, formed of a close grained red sandstone. It was found lying face upwards, and was unfortunately broken into several pieces. The stone is sculptured with the representation of an arched recess or alcove, above which is a pediment supported on either side by fine Corinthian columns. Within the recess, seated upon a chair of trellis work, is the figure of a female, with the face unfortunately broken off. The head appears to rest upon a pillow. With her right hand she seems (as Mr. C. Roach Smith says, correctly) to be opening a chest, on the front of which is carved a crescent, with other ornamental details. At her feet, on the left, is a cylindrical shaped basket containing a number of articles, which (judging from a tombstone found at Mayence) would probably be working materials. one of which latter she also holds in her left hand, being, as Mr. Roach Smith says, “at work,” like the lady in the Mayence example. On a plinth beneath the figure is a Latin inscription of three lines, and lower still a line in Palmyrene. The Latin inscription is this :—

D. M. REGINA. LIBERTA. ET. CONIVGE
BARATES. PALMYRENVS. NATIONE.
CATVALLAVNA. AN. XXX.

Immediately upon its discovery, Mr. Robert Blair of South Shields, the antiquarian *genius loci*, sent copies of the inscription to Dr. Hübner of Berlin, and to myself, simultaneously, asking for a reading of it. When compared, our readings were found to be identical, and (though several other readings have been proposed) I am glad to

say that the generality of antiquaries have adopted our view, including Dr. McCaul of Toronto (author of *Britanno-Roman Inscriptions*). It is also adopted by Mr. Walter de Gray Birch, in a paper by him on this monument, in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. xxxiv, pp. 490-91. This reading was, "To the gods, the Manes. To Regina, freedwoman and wife, by nation a Catvallaunian (*aged*) 30 years. Barates, a Palmyrenian (*erects this*)." There is evidently an error in the first line, the ablative being used. The feminine form of the adjective *Catvallauna* at once shews that it is to Regina that the word applies, which is supported by the fact that it is in the normal position, as we have in other Britanno-Roman inscriptions, "Natione Grecus," "Natione Belga," and "Natione Brigans." The name "Barates" is a compound word, similar to that applied to St. Peter in the New Testament (Matthew xvi, 17, and John xxi, 15, *et seq*). Another example occurs in the name Bar-jesus (Acts xiii, 6); "Bar" simply meaning "son of."

Dr. Wright (professor of Arabic at Cambridge) reads the Palmyrene inscription as, "Regina freedwoman of Bar'ate. Alas." This agrees with the Latin inscription, whilst the version given by the Orientalists of Berlin, "Regina, deceased daughter of Haddai son of Ata," is a puzzle. From the Latin inscription it is plain that Regina was a British female, of the tribe of the Catvallauni, the capital of which, according to the geographer Ptolemy, was *Verolamium* (St. Albans). She was sold as a slave to Barates, who subsequently gave her her liberty (*Liberta*) and then made her his wife. The height of the figure is 34 inches, and underneath the stone were found the bones of some animal, believed to be those of a horse.

Dr. McCaul, in a letter to the writer, says of this stone, "*Natione*, I think, should be joined with *Catvallauna* not *Palmyrenus* It is evident from the name *Regina* that she must have been a large showy woman, from *liberta* and *Catvallauna* that she had been a native slave, from *Barates*, the *Bar* being equal to *Mac*, that he was a Jew, and from the position in which the inscription was found, indicating most probably his

residence, that he was a non-combatant, probably a sutler."

We cannot gather from the inscription whether *Regina* had any family.

At the same station various articles have been found, made from jet, some of them inscribed, and from the quantity of fragments, it is conjectured that a manufactory of articles in this substance had been established here.¹ Amongst the articles found is a small triangular shaped ornament, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 2 inches, bearing upon its face what appears to be the figure of a gorilla in a sitting posture, and holding with the right arm a club. At the feet of this creature, on the right, are three letters, and the same number occur on the left. They are ELA IAS.

That the gorilla was known to the Romans is very probable. My friend, Mr. H. C. Coote, F.S.A., says on this point, "I see no difficulty in believing that the Romans knew the gorilla. The whole of Morocco was in their hands, Fez, &c. being Roman cities. Hanno the Carthaginian in his voyage (most early) describes him. He would easily be taken down into imperial territory. The search of the Romans after wild beasts was insatiable. See the *Scriptores Historiæ Augustæ*."

What the meaning of the above letters is I am at a loss to understand.

In addition to this there has been found a small ornament of jet, something like the shape of a tombstone, about two inches in height, on the upper part of which is the representation of a man falling head foremost, and underneath it the inscription :—

INSID
IIS.DI
ABOLI

I consider this to be early Christian, and the figure intended to represent the descent of some unhappy soul to perdition. The inscription "*Insidiis Diaboli*" I would translate as "By the wiles of the Devil." *Diabolus* (in the sense here used) is certainly not a classic Latin word,

¹ I am aware that some archæologists have called these minor articles forgeries; but I hold the opinion that though not

of strictly Roman date, they are genuine antiques. The evidence as to their discovery seems satisfactory.

but in Christian times it would come into general use. There was probably a pair of these ornaments, the other one representing the ascent of a soul into bliss, with a suitable inscription. Dr. Bruce at a recent meeting of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries read this as a dedication, "to the wiles of the Devil." But there is little doubt, I think, that the ablative instead of the dative is intended. The idea that it is Christian seems, I think, further confirmed by the discovery of two small Latin crosses at the station, about two inches in height, one of stone the other of jet, both bearing upon the horizontal bar the letters REMO. One has a ring through it, for suspension round the neck or elsewhere.

As to the whole of these ornaments, Mr. Coote writes to me as follows :—

"The two portable crosses are of paramount value in an archæologic sense. The whole contents of the 'find' illustrate, in my opinion, each separately. The figure and its inscription, 'Insidiis Diaboli,' can only be Christian. The letters are not later than the fourth century. This Christian inscription determines in its turn (as being found in company) that the crosses are Christian of the fourth century, when we have evidences of crosses, portable and made by goldsmiths and artificers (Vide Martigny, *Dictionnaire des Antiquités Chrétiennes*; *sub voce* 'Croix'). Your explanation of the figure and inscription, 'Insidiis Diaboli,' is incontrovertible."

Professor Hübner thinks the "Insidiis Diaboli" inscription seems "to be of the third century. Diabolus is perhaps no certain proof of the Christian religion, but may be of Gnostic origin." In this I cannot agree.

In June I received, through the courtesy of Mr. A. D. Berrington, a rubbing of a portion of a fine Roman tombstone found at a place called Battle, about a mile to the north-west of the large Roman fortress called the "Gaer," near Brecon, which I exhibited at the meeting of the Institute on the 5th July. (Vide *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxv, p. 190). It is now in the possession of Mr. Baron Cleashy.

It is the left hand portion of the stone containing the commencement of the lines, which are—

DIS . M
 CAND
 NI . FILI
 HISP . VETT
 CLEM . DOM
 AN . XX . STIP . III . H

All that we can *with certainty* gather from this, is that it was erected to the divine shades (*Diis Manibus*) of a soldier of the *Ala Hispanorum Vettonum*, whose *cognomen* was Candidus. The name of his father has been upon the stone, but —NI are the only remaining letters of it. He lived twenty years and served three, and probably, if the last letter (H) was followed by s. e., was buried where the stone was erected; but the II may have been followed by f. c.

The stone has since been engraved by Professor Westwood, in part iii. of his *Lapidarium Walliæ* (pl. 42, fig. 3), where he gives (at p. 76) a reading of Professor Hübner's, based, evidently, upon the tombstone of a soldier of the same *ala*, named Lucius Vitellius Tancinus, which was found in 1736, at Bath. This reading is—*Dis Manibus C. Juli Candidi Tancini Fili. Eq(uitis) Al(æ) Hisp(anorum) Vettonum C(ivium) R(omanorum), Julius Clem(ens) Domit(ius) Valens. H. F. Ann(orum) XX. Stip(endiorum) III. II. S. E.*; but it is mere conjecture, so far as the missing names are concerned. The stone has been highly ornamented, and is the first positive evidence of an auxiliary corps having been in South Wales.¹

At the commencement of the year, some workmen were engaged in removing a quantity of loose stones from a field that was being ploughed, on the property of Thos. Owen, Esq., of Rhyddgaer, in the parish of Llangeinwen, Anglesey, when they came upon three pieces of lead, which appeared to have formed part of a coffin. One was evidently the end, the others, portions of the sides.

¹ When I first saw this inscription, I was inclined to think that DOM, in the fifth line, stood for DOMO; but I could not reconcile it with the preceding word, CLEM, which would, in that case, have stood for the *tribus*. I consequently yielded to Dr. Hübler's reading. Since then, however, Dr. McCaul, in writing to

me, expresses the opinion that *Clemens Domitius* is incorrect, and adds—"In my opinion, instead of CLEM we should have had COL. EM; the DOM standing for DOMO, and COL. EM for *Colonia, Emerita, or Emeritensis*." From the rubbing of the stone, I cannot, however, trace any o between the c and l.

These latter bore inscriptions, the letters being in each case reversed. The inscription on one was

(H) CAMVLORIS

on the other—

CAMVLORISHOI

Both were incomplete, but had probably been originally identical. A piece has been torn off from one end of each. No trace of the bottom, the lid, or the other end of the coffin was found; but both the coffin and the stones above and round it had previously been disturbed, as the rescued pieces bore many marks of the ploughshare. The inscribed pieces were each 3 feet 3 inches long, 11 inches broad, and the lead was half an inch thick. The end was 2 feet 2 inches long, and 11 inches broad. The letters are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and in relief. What their meaning is, seems doubtful. *Camuloris*, as a proper name, occurs on a stone, in the church of Stackpole Elidyr, in Pembrokeshire. There are the remains of a square Roman camp at Rhyddgaer; and coins, Samian ware, and other kinds of pottery have been found. The soil around the spot where the coffin was found was very dark, and had all the appearance of containing much animal matter. Fragments of tile, pottery, bones and ashes, were mixed with it. The inscribed fragments are preserved at Rhyddgaer House, by Mr. Owen.

There is preserved in the museum at Caernarvon, the handle of a Roman vessel, found at the Roman station there, bearing an inscription, which I venture here to insert, although properly coming under the head of potter's marks. It is

VR + FES

It has been suggested that what I read as TI ligulate, is a cross. This is, however, in my opinion, quite erroneous. I take it to be the name of a potter whose name, with a slight variation, occurs upon the handle of an amphora, found at Binchester, and now preserved in the Newcastle Museum. In this case it is VR + FI.

At Bath during some excavations into the ancient Roman *cloacæ*, still partially used as drains, amongst other remains, there was found the fragments of an

inscription, which, from the size of the stone, the size and shape of the letters, and the peculiar triangular shaped stop, seems to be another portion of the fragmentary inscription found in 1790, belonging to the smaller building near the Great Temple. This latter commenced C. PROTACIVS, &c. The recently found fragment contained only the letters—

T
E T.

It was found, as I have previously stated in the *Archæological Journal* (vol. xxxv, p. 100) in the same neighbourhood as the 1790 inscription. The letters evidently form the commencement of two lines.

In his list of miliaries found on the "*Via Cambriæ*," Dr. Hübner gives (No. 1159) what is variously known as the Newton Nottage, or Port Talbot stone. It is inscribed on three of its sides, but of the three inscriptions Dr. Hübner only gives the most perfect one (that to the Emperor Gordian), which in fact until recently was the only one published. But in the *Lapidarium Walliæ*, pl. 27, figs. 3 and 4, Professor Westwood gives engravings of the other inscriptions on the stone which are much obliterated. The letters *seem* to be (though doubtless some of them are wrongly given) these:—

I M M	I M P P C
CA E.	D I O
N O . .	C L E T I
L . . .	A N O
F . . A	M A R C
G	A V R E
	O A

The second of these is evidently of the reign of Diocletian, but if the reading I M P P in the first line is correct, his colleague in the empire, Maximianus, has also been mentioned in the inscription. Of the first of these nothing can be made out, owing to its imperfect state.

At Gloucester, on a fragment of a flue tile recently found, there occur the letters:—


C R P G I
C * N N I

There has recently been presented to the Chester Museum, by Mr. Frederick Potts, a fragment of a very fine inscription found in that city, but under what cir-

cumstances, I am ignorant. I take it, from the shape of the stone, to have originally adorned the front of a temple. The letters are four inches in height, and are of the best period. They are :—

B A V G G E

and have no doubt been part of an inscription to the divinities of the emperors, and to some other god, (NVMINI)B.AVGG.E(T.DEO). From the fineness of the letters, combined with the fact that at the time it was erected there was a plurality of emperors (AVGG occurring instead of AVG), it was probably carved either in the joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus (A.D. 161 to 169), or in that of Severus and Caracalla (A.D. 198 to 211). The side section of the stone is this:—
I am indebted to Mr. G. W. Shrubsole of Chester for a correct copy of the inscription. Mr. Potts had previously informed me of its existence.



At the large Roman station at Malton there has been found a bronze patella, on the upper surface of the handle of which was inscribed:—

A L P I C V S . F

and beneath it a number of letters are rudely made by a series of small punctures, which Dr. Hübner reads as :—

L . S E R V E N I . Q . L . S V P E R . V P E R I .

The first of these is simply *Alpicus F(ecit)*, but as to the second, Dr. Hübner *may* be correct, though I would not from the rudeness of the letters give a distinct reading. Some of the letters he gives are no doubt correct. This patella is in the possession of the Rev. Canon Greenwell at Durham.

At York, in October, a tile was found inscribed :—

H V I S V S

which Dr. Hübner reads as *Ur-sus*.

Canon Raine has also recently made known the copy of an inscription on a Roman tile found at York, preserved in the MSS. of Francis Drake, the antiquary, author of *Eboracum*. The tile itself is now lost. The inscription is :—

< P O L I O N I S
F E L I C I T E R

Dr. Hübner suggests that instead of the centurial mark at the commencement of the inscription the letter L was intended.

There have also been found at York during the year, as Canon Raine informs me, "a few unintelligible pieces of an inscription which has been shattered into fragments." I hope however to eventually obtain the letters on these pieces, and endeavour to form some idea of the inscription when entire.

At Colchester during the past year Mr. Geo. Joslin informs me that the only inscribed Roman article found (exclusive of potter's marks) during the past year was a glass bottle of graceful shape, one of a group of eight, bearing upon the bottom a circle of letters of which the following is a copy:—



From this it is very difficult to extract any meaning. If we take ING as an abbreviation of the name *Ingenuus*, and the next letters as *V(ixit) A(nnos) v. M(enses)*, the number of months is wanting. Should this be supplied by the centre v? And if so, are CN and A to be taken as the abbreviations of *præ nomina*.

I should have included in the South Shields inscription, a small piece of bone with what appear to be two Syriac or other Oriental characters upon it.

There is an inscription given by Professor Hübner (No. 150 in his work), which is taken from an engraving in Meyrick's *Cardiganshire* (pl. 5, fig. 9.) It was found at Llanio, in that county. I am not sure whether the stone is not the same as that given by Sir R. C. Hoare, in his *Giraldus Cambrensis*, vol. i, *Introduction*, p. cliii. If so, Meyrick and Dr. Hübner give very different copies of the inscription to the latter author, who, as I have stated in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, vol. iv, 4th series, p. 116, is also partially incorrect. Sir R. C. Hoare gives in his text, the inscription as COH. II. A ... GFVP, which he expanded as "Cohors secunda (legionis) Augustæ fecit quinque

passus." But, as I pointed out in the vol. above named, the first part of this should certainly be "Cohors secunda A....." the nationality of the cohort being obliterated. I have lately received from Professor Westwood, who saw the stone in the summer of 1878, a copy of the inscription (which consisted of two lines) as far as it is visible. It is

COH. II. A

Beyond A in the first line, however, the tops of the letters ST are plainly visible in his drawing; and thus shews at once that the COH. II. ASTVRVM, well known in Britanno-Roman epigraphy, was intended.

Of inscriptions, previously found and omitted by Dr. Hubner, in his large work, there are still a few fragments to be added. One of these is a portion of (apparently) a tombstone, found at Cirencester, and now at the museum there. It is

IPH
 NI

The portion of a letter before the PH would seem to have been part of the letter v.

Another fragment, of which only the letters

SE—

remained, was found in a well, at the Roman station of Segontium (Carnarvon)—*Arch. Camb.*, vol. i, 1st series, p. 76. It was only two inches long, and of stone.

The altar found at Gloucester, which I thought, when compiling the list of inscriptions for 1876 (*Journal*, vol. xxxiv, p. 148), might be dedicated to Mercury, I have since found from a rubbing should be,—

D E O
 GENIOCHOCVNC
 . . . ORIVENDVS
 *A*I.

and the reading of the first two lines, *Deo Genio Cohortis Cunctæ* (*Vide Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxv, p. 101).¹ On the other hand, an inscription, found at Greta Bridge, Yorkshire, omitted, as I stated (*Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxv, p. 74) in my 1877 list, by Dr. Hubner, from

¹ Mr. H. C. Coote, F.S.A., has since drawn my attention to a passage in Plautus, in which *cunctus* is used in the same

way. It is—"Fac istam cunctam gratiam."

his list of Britanno Roman Inscriptions, has been I see included in his list of *Inscriptiones Britanniae Christianae* (No. 187, p. 68). Dr. Hubner considers it post Roman and Christian.

One other has to be added to the list of inscriptions found and again lost without being published. In Coxe's *Monmouthshire*, vol. i, p. 115 and note, it is said that at Cilsant "now called Pentre-bach, two miles from Llantarnam, now a farm house." "On a freestone of the great chimney in the hall, is part of a sepulchral inscription, erected to the memory of Vindutius, a Roman soldier of the second Augustan Legion, aged 45. Pentre-bach is as the crow flies about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles W.N.W. of Caerleon. Mr. A. D. Berrington has recently searched this house for the stone, especially at the place indicated, but in vain. It has been removed, and as it does not appear to be in the museum at Caerleon, it is either in some private collection, or has been lost.

This completes, so far as I am aware, the additions to Dr. Hubner's list, up to the present time.

At Leicester there was found in June, 1869, whilst excavating in a cellar at 45, High Street, a drinking vessel of Castor ware, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by 7 inches in diameter, of a dull slate colour. On the exterior, laid on in slips of white clay, in relief, are scroll ornaments, together with several letters (some wanting) about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in height. Were the vessel entire there would be space for about nine letters, but only five remain, which are :—

ME*I***VI.

At the same town there was found in August, 1872, whilst excavating in Sanvy Gate, another vessel of Castor ware, of the same colour, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, bearing upon it in slip (with other ornaments) the word :—

VITA

It was found between eight and nine feet deep, close to the head of a human skeleton.

Both these vessels are now in the Leicester Museum, but they appear to have escaped Dr. Hubner

There seems to have been an inscription on the base

of the stone representing three water nymphs, found with other inscriptions in the well of the goddess Coventina at Carrawburgh (Procolitia) in 1876, but the only letters visible, are :—

*E*****oMIII.

Dr. Hubner's No. 148, believed to have been lost, was exhibited at the Lampeter meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Society, in 1878, by J. M. Davies, Esq., of Antarn.