

ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS DISCOVERED IN BRITAIN IN 1881,  
WITH NOTES ON ANOTHER FOUND  
AT BINCHESTER.

By W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

The present paper has been much delayed owing to the long illness of the writer. But the delay has nevertheless been advantageous, for it has enabled him to obtain several additional items of information regarding the inscriptions named in it, and another fairly productive year has to be added to those previously given.

At Colchester, on the 21st May, an altar was discovered during excavations for a sewer in Balkerne Lane. It is at present about fifty inches in height and almost exactly two feet square. Whether it had a focus cannot be determined, as the head is much broken, the material being "fire-stone." It has had a sunken panel on each side but no ornaments can be detected upon their much-worn surface. On its face, which was downwards when found, the inscription has, by this means, been well preserved. The letters, which are elegantly cut, and of an early period, are, divested of ligatures---

MATRIBVS  
SVLEVIS  
SIMILIS.AETEL.F.  
CI . CANT  
V . L . S

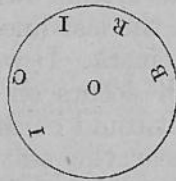
I annex an engraving of the altar, which is only the second found in Britain mentioning the *Sulevae*, the other being found at Bath in 1754; but the latter is to the *Sulevae* simply; in the Colchester altar we find them for the first time designated *Matres*.



The next point to be noticed in the inscription is the name of the father of the dedicator (in the second line). Professor Hübner, Mr. J. E. Price, and others, read it as *ATTI*, but as will be seen from the engraving the first *T* is a compound or ligulate letter (*ETE*, as I think), and I would read it as *AETELL*. The name *Aeteius* is to be found in *Corpus. Inscr. Latin.* vol. v., No. 4520. In the fourth line I proposed to expand *CANT*, as showing that *Similis* was a Cantabrian citizen; but Mr. C. Roach Smith, Dr. Hübner, and Mr. H. C. Coote prefer to recognise him as a Cantian, or member of the *Civitas Cantius*, of the county of Kent. Either expansion is possible, and my grounds for giving the former were that we have an inscription (Gruter, p. 439) which records the presence of an officer at Colchester, who was *Præfect* of the second cohort of the *Astures*, a people who with the *Cantabri* occupied a portion of Northern Spain on the shores of the Bay of Biscay. This officer held a civic post, being *Censitor* (or assessor) of the Roman citizens of the colony at Colchester. From the absence of any mention

of military rank, Similis probably was a civilian also. The whole inscription I would read *Matribus Sulevis, Similis, Aetei(i) F(ilius), Civis (Cantius, or) Cantabriae V(otum) L(ibens) S(olvit)*.

To Mr. J. E. Price, I am indebted for the inscription in the base of a Roman glass jar, which contained bones, recently found at Colchester, and now in the museum there. It is—



And would appear to read BRICI. Mr. Price says there may have been a sixth letter, which has been worn away, but he thinks it improbable. If the small centre circle is to be taken for the letter o the word *officina* is intended by it.

As usual the greatest number of inscriptions have come from the neighbourhood of the Roman Wall. I am indebted to Mr. W. Jackson for the photograph of an altar found near the station at Moresby, and now preserved in a house near Workington. It is thus inscribed:

I. O. M.  
COH. II. THRA  
EQ. C. P. M. AN  
TON. POS. PRA\*  
\*\*\*TP\*\*

The altar is much weathered, and the last line especially is (with the exception of the two letters given, which are clear) almost obliterated. From the preceding lines we can however restore it with certainty, the whole inscription being *I(om) O(ptimo) M(aximo) Coh(ors) II. Thra(cum), Eq(uitata) C(ui) P(ræest) M(arcus) Anton(ius) Pos(tumus) Præfect(us) Pos(uit)*.

Two other inscriptions have previously been found at this station mentioning the second cohort of the Thracians.

At Burgh-upon-Sands, a small altar much broken was found in a walled up door of the church. It is only nine



represents a cavalry soldier, apparently armoured, holding in his right hand a standard, and riding over a prostrate foe. His helmet is plumed, and a sword is hanging by his right side. A column on each side has flanked the group, though the former are much shattered and broken, and the extreme upper part has also been decorated, but is now much obliterated. Beneath the sculptured portion is an inscription consisting of four lines within a sunken panel with mouldings, which runs thus :—

DIS . MANIBVS FLAVINVS  
EQ . ALAE PETR SIGNIFER  
TVR CANDIDI AN XXV  
STIP . VII . H.S.

i.e. *Dis Manibus. Flavinus<sup>1</sup> eques Alae Petrianae, Signifer turmae Candidi, annorum viginti quinque, stipendiorum vii. hic situs (est).* Or in English “To the gods the shades. Flavinus, a horse soldier of the *Ala Petriana*, standard bearer, of the troop of Candidus twenty-five years of age, and seven of service. He is laid here.”

This is the fourth inscription naming the *Ala Petriana* found in Britain. One (now lost) was found at Old Penrith, in Cumberland, another at Carlisle, and the third on the face of a rock at Lanercost. It was in Britain in A.D. 124, according to the Rivington *tabula* of the Emperor Hadrian, and the *Notitia* places it (*circa* A.D. 400) at *Petriana*, which it gives as one of the stations on the wall. The site of *Petriana* has not yet been identified, but this discovery would seem to point to Hexham as bearing that name, which I think receives some confirmation, from another inscription (fragmentary) found many years ago at the same town, and which has generally been read as

GNI CIVI  
RAVTHVS . ET  
ARFAIAVG  
T . TSCV

but I have a strong suspicion that the third line should be read AEF. AL. AVGV. and is part of the words PRAEF.

<sup>1</sup> The I in FLAVINVS is formed by an upward prolongation of the first perpendicular stroke of the N, and is much worn. This, with the fact of the F at the commencement resembling the letter E, made me in common with Dr. Bruce

and other antiquaries, read the name as ELAVNVS, and I thus published it in the *Academy*, October 1, 1881. It was only on receiving a photograph of the stone that I obtained the correct reading.

AL. AVGV(STAE PETRIANAE); the Carlisle inscription giving the *Ala*, the prefix of *Augusta*. It is desirable that this point should be settled, as the accumulation of evidence regarding the presence of the *Ala* at Hexham bears upon the question whether the latter place is not the *Petriana* of the *Notitia*.

At South Shields a few more inscriptions have come to light. The first to be noticed is a tombstone broken into several pieces and reddened by the action of fire, which has caused portions of the stone to flake off, and part of the second line is entirely broken out. The extant letters seem to be—

D. M. S.  
AV \* \* \* DVS  
VIX \* \* ANNO  
S.VIII \* \* \* SES VIII  
LARRVNTIVS SAL  
VIANVS. FILIO  
B. M. PIISIMO.

The only difficulty in the inscription is the name of the deceased in the second line. To Mr. R. Blair, who favoured me with the copy of the inscription, I gave the reading AVGVENDVS, and see no reason to alter my opinion. When the same gentleman sent a copy of the inscription to Professor Hübner of Berlin, that eminent authority likewise gave the same reading. The whole inscription is *D(is) M(anibus) S(acrum)*. *Augendus vixit annos viii menses viii. L(ucius) Arruntius Salvianus filio bene merenti piisimo*. "Sacred to the gods the shades. Augendus lived eight years (and) nine months. Lucius Arruntius Salvianus, to his well deserving (and) most dutiful son."

Two *graffiti* inscriptions on portions of tiles have been found at the same place. One seems to be—

TEG. LA —

and is probably an abbreviation of the word *Tegula*, followed by an I laid horizontally.

The other is more shattered and also more complex. The upper portion is—

\* ERIACVS.

followed at a considerable interval by—

\* \* \*  
O F E L  
\* \* Q C S E



In the upper portion there is an appearance of part of a letter before the E, but too small to judge of its identity. The whole inscription is in a cursive hand, and appears to have been scratched before the tiles were baked. In the under portion there are also appearances of the lower parts of letters, above OFEL, and two (if not three) letters before the QC, but of too barbarous a character to be distinctly ascertained. On the fragment of a small Samian cup found at the same station are scratched letters which appear to be—

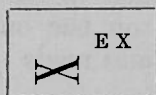
VRCA

At Binchester a tile has been found also bearing a *graffitic* inscription, written upon it, before the clay was baked, with some sharp instrument. The letters are of the same "cursive" nature as those at South Shields, and the inscription appears to be—

ARMEAMIDOCVII

I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. Hooppell for a photograph and description of this tile, but unless ARMEAMI be a proper name, nothing can be made of it.

To Dr. Hooppell also I am indebted for the three next inscriptions. The first is in the face of the wall over a culvert, which passes through the wall of the station at Binchester, near the north-west angle. It is—



and seems to be simply the mark which in Roman inscriptions signifies a thousand, with the letters EX attached. The second inscription was found by Dr. Hooppell on a stone in the wall of the eastern rampart<sup>1</sup> of the Roman station at Catterick (*Cataractonium*). It is simply—

MACEM

and I should opine is a portion of a centurial inscription.

The third inscription occurs upon a tile found at Lin-

<sup>1</sup> About fifty yards from the south end of the exposed portion.

coln, and is stamped in fine characters within a label. It reads—

C . VIB . EXO
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and the only doubtful portion is the last word. Can it be an abbreviation of *exornavit*? The first part is plainly *C(aius) Vib(ius)*.

In the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, Oct. 1881, p. 363, it is stated that on the 5th August that year the members of the *Cambrian Archaeological Association* inspected a stone built into the north wall of Atcham Church (near Wroxeter) concluded to be Roman, and on which were the letters

R P A I S O

There is a fracture of the stone immediately before what is given as the letter S. If the stone is Roman I am inclined to think that it has been inscribed

R . P . NATO

and reads as several other similar stones do (*Bono*) *R(ei)p(ublicae) Nato*. (To one) "born for the good of the republic," a compliment frequently paid to Roman emperors.

There is a fragmentary inscription given in the 2nd edition of "The Roman Wall," p. 250, which does not seem to have been included in Dr. Hübner's work. It is in fine letters, reversed, on the outside of a portion of a "Samian ware" vessel, and reads

BAN\*

There is a portion of the bottom of another letter visible after the N, which may have been V or another N. Has the word been *BAN(NA)* the name of a Roman station somewhere in this neighbourhood.

Amongst the MSS. of the Rev. Thomas Machell, who died Rector of Kirkby Thore (Westmoreland) in 1698, now preserved in the Cathedral Library at Carlisle, is a large collection of memoranda originally formed with the view of being embraced in a county history of Westmoreland. A number of unpublished Roman inscriptions, hitherto unpublished, are given in them, of which by the



courtesy of Mr. R. S. Ferguson, I am enabled to give copies.

Mr. Machell first gives the inscription on a defaced altar which had gone in his time, but had been recorded by Dugdale in his visitation of the county in 1664. He gives it as—

FORTA  
BALLI  
N. M. S. S  
C. CALEDI  
VS. FOR  
NTINVS  
NOIV

As it stands little or nothing can be made of it, but there have no doubt been ligulate letters. In the last line the I is within the O. I am inclined to think that the first line has been an abbreviation of the word FORTVNAE, and that the whole has read something like this—FORTVNAE BALNEARI. G. CALEDIVS FRONTINVS . . . There are a number of inscriptions extant to *Fortuna Balnearis*, e.g., *Corpus. Inscr. Latin.*, vol. ii., Nos. 2701 and 2763, both found in Spain.

Mr. Machell also mentions a stone at Kirkby Thore, on which were the letters

DEO ALAE.

These should undoubtedly be DEC. ALAE. "Decurion of the Ala . . ." He commits the same error in describing another inscription found at Kirkby Thore, which he tells us was on a plinth which he found whilst excavating. He reads it—

ELL^ EQQ. LLAVRELIVS. M  
ARCVS DEO ALAE. V. S. L. LM.

Of the first word I can make nothing. The second, EQQ, stands for *Equites* or *Equitum*, though in what connection I cannot, from its position, understand. The next letter L is also puzzling; but the remainder is clearly *L(ucius) Aurelius Marcus, Dec(urio) Alae V(otum) S(olvit) L(aetus) L(ibens) M(erito)*.

The next stone was also found at Kirkby Thore, and according to Mr. Machell was inscribed

). CAST

i.e., *Centuria Cast(i)*. The name of Castus occurs several times in Britanno Roman inscriptions.

An altar found at Burney Beck (in the parish of Kirkby Thore) is next described. Mr. Machell supposed it to have come from a fort on the summit of the south end of Milburn Fell, but he truly says he did not consider the fort Roman, as it was of a circular shape. There is no reason, however, to doubt the fact that it may have been occupied by the Romans for hunting purposes. Burn and Nicholson in their *History of Westmoreland* (vol. i., p. 388), name the altar and give the inscription on it as DEO SILVANO simply, but Mr. Machell gives it as

DEO SILVANO  
AELIVS. VOTVM SOLVIT.

and in his drawing are representations of the sides of the altar, on which were sculptured sacrificial implements, as in many other examples.

A description of the Roman station at Ambleside is given by Mr. Machel, and appended to it is the following :—

“And there is a field house call'd Bowsrigg Highhouse 1 mile south from hence in the way 'twixt Ambleside and Windermere Church, in the east end of which I found a stone brought from the said Borvans with this broken inscription, concerning a Roman cohort, which cohort pinn'd up ye Britons in Cartmel and Furness.”

VXV  
CHO  
SAN

The letters in the first line are very rude and also ligulate, so that I may not have rightly read them. They resemble two V's conjoined with a diagonal stroke from right to left across the first stroke of the second V. *C(o)ho(rtis)* is plain in the second line. The S in the third line is reversed, but I think it has read (*Centuria*) *San(cti)*. It is, however, difficult to say whether it had been a portion of a tombstone or of a centurial stone. This is the only inscription *preserved* from the station at Ambleside unless Dr. Hübner's No. 1341 is (as I have reason to believe) the stone found at Ambleside over forty years since, and of which a drawing was exhibited to the Institute by the late Mr. Beck, August 25, 1845.

There are two inscriptions from the Roman station at Overborough (Lancashire) of which Machel made rather rude drawings, and of which he thus speaks :—

“At the Vicaridge House in Tunstall are two fragments of Roman Inscriptions, translated hither by the late minister, from Burrow-upon-Lewin in y<sup>e</sup> said parish which I have placed one upon another for the better convenience of graveing.”<sup>1</sup>

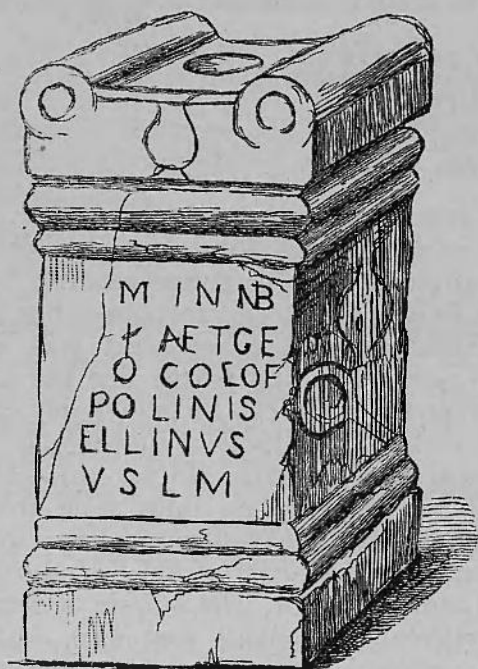
As given by Machel, these are—

(1)	(2)
D.	D. M. S.
M. S.	
ET. PERPETVE SEC	
VRITATI AVRELIVS	
NNIOTV	
AN. LIIHMILI	
AVREVBIAECON	
XXXVII. AVR. P.P.P.	

The first inscription is (as given) peculiar. We have in part of the second and third lines, the phrase “Perpetuae Securitati”—“to perpetual security”—the first time that it or any other cognate phrase has been found in Britain, though on the continent such expressions occasionally occur. In the fourth line the letters seem to be a misrepresentation of ANICETV(S), and the first six lines would read *D(iis) M(anibus) S(acrum) et perpetu(a)e Securitati, Aurelius Anicetus, An(norum) LII. hic militavit*). The remaining two lines seem to have been subsequently added. I have been inclined to read them *Aureliae Con(iugi) (Annorum) XXXVII Aur(elius) p(ro) p(ietate) p(osuit)*, but Dr. McCaul, in a letter to me, prefers *Aur(eliae) Eu(se)biae con(jugi)*, and suggests that the last three letters were F. P. P. expanding them as *F(ilius) P(ie) P(osuit)*. In any event, the stone commemorates *Aurelius Anicetus* who lived fifty-two years, and appears to have been stationed and fought for some time at Overborough; and his wife, *Aurelia*, who lived thirty-seven years; the stone being probably put up by a son of the parties. The second inscription is merely the head of a tombstone, the formula *D(iis) M(anibus) S(acrum)* alone remaining. Each of these stones was of a pyramidal shape and surmounted by the representation of a fir cone.

<sup>1</sup> The second inscription is, in the MSS., pinned to the lower right corner of the first.

The remaining stone noticed in the Machel MSS. is thus spoken of: "An altar (above a yard high) digg'd up at Kirkby in Loansdale *circa* An. 1684, in a Bank by the river Leun called Abbat's Brow adjoyning the north east side of y<sup>e</sup> church-yard and now lyeing in the High Street for a seat at Widdow Morris' doore. One side of the Altar (which I have supplied) is broke off and lost. The 1st line seemed to be NVMINIBVS, the 4th APOLLINIS, the last VOTVM SOLVIT." A drawing of the altar is given,



from which the annexed engraving has been taken. The remaining portion of the inscription I would read as--

.. MINIB	<i>Nuninibus</i>
.. TIETGE	<i>Augusti et</i>
.. OCOLEGII	<i>Genio Colegii</i>
.. POLINIS	<i>Apollinis</i>
ELLINVS	<i>Ellinus</i>
V S L M.	<i>Votum Solvit Libens Merito.</i>

"To the divinity of the Augustus and the Genius of the College of Apollo, Ellinus performs his vow willingly to a deserving object." From the fact of the existence of a college dedicated to Apollo it is evident that Overborough

must have been a more important place than it has been generally considered. That this altar belonged to that station, which is only some two miles distant from the place where it was found, seems certain.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Canon Raine has recently detected on a slab of stone preserved in the York Museum a portion of an almost defaced inscription. Portions of three lines are traceable, but only the commencement of the second line is legible, thus--

C I V I . . . . .  
. . . . .

In the Mayer Museum at Liverpool there is preserved a fragment of red Roman pottery,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches, from Carlisle, bearing a small portion of a *graffiti* inscription rudely scratched, which seems to be—

\* V D  
O L I V  
\* C R I I S

The asterisks mark where portions of letters are visible. The last line I think has been part of the word CRESCENS, I I being used for E.

In the vicarage garden at Bowes (*Lavatrae*) in Yorkshire there is preserved a round stone which has certainly in comparatively recent times been used as a millstone. It has borne an inscription in the Latin language, of which a part remains. This was communicated to me a few years ago by the Rev. C. B. Wardale, the vicar, but I have been doubtful whether it belonged to the Roman era. My friend, Mr. Robert Blair of South Shields, who very recently inspected it, has come to the conclusion that it is Roman. With the view therefore of putting it upon record, and inviting its inspection by other antiquaries, I give the inscription—



<sup>1</sup> It is possible that the letter n has been obliterated at the commencement of the line, and that the name might thus

read "Bellinus," as in an inscription found at Binchester.

The stone is 2 feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, and 6 inches in thickness, with a round hole in the centre. The Rev. Dr. Hooppell has lately published a somewhat different version of the inscription, not thinking it Roman. This is however at present an open question.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, July, 1813, p. 17 (vol. xxxiii., pt. 2), a correspondent signing S.M. says that in August, 1812, he saw on the road side, two miles from Fisgard, on the way to Newport (Pembrokeshire), "an irregular stone lying loose among many others of the same kind bearing an inscription rudely cut, apparently Roman." An engraving of it is given (Pl. II., fig. 3), and the writer asks whether it was a mile stone. This, I opine, it was. The only lettering which can be made out (some of which may be ligulate) is—

IAIXI  
MII.

During the first half of this year (1881) the workmen employed in making public gardens, at the Castle, Abergavenny, found some Roman stamped tiles (probably of the Second Legion); but unfortunately they were immediately broken up to be used for making the walks.

A few notes and corrections as to previously found inscriptions have to be added.

In vol. xxxvii of the *Journal*, p. 137, I have described a centurial stone found at Goldcliff, Monmouthshire, on which, in the last line of the inscription, I gave what seemed to be a portion of a letter between MM. This turns out to be merely an ornamental stop, and further examination shews faint traces of an I to exist at the end of the line which should be given as M.M.I. My friend, Mr. A. D. Berrington, has suggested as the expansion of these letters *M(uri) M(ille) I.*, which seems very probable.

In the same vol., p. 151, I named an inscription built up in the roof of one of the chambers of Caernarvon Castle. Further examination makes it doubtful if this is a Roman inscription, but the letters are almost obliterated.

In vol. xxxviii. of the *Journal*, p. 296, I gave an inscription on the bottom of a glass vessel found at York as PATRIC. It should be PATRM, the meaning, *Patr(iciu) M(anu)*, being, however, the same.

On p. 297 of the same vol. I gave an inscription on a



fragment of pottery found at York, <sup>QVR</sup><sub>IC</sub>, which I notice Dr. Hubner has included in his potters' marks, 1337, No. 61.

In speaking of two Greek inscriptions found at York (in the same vol., p. 298), I rendered the letters CKPIB as the first part of the name *Scribonius*. The Rev C. W. King however, in a paper communicated to the Institute, December 1st, 1881, reads these letters as part of the word *Scriba*, and identifies Demetrius with the grammarian of that name mentioned by Plutarch.

I am indebted to Mr. A. D. Berrington for some interesting information relative to the inscriptions Nos. 146 and 147 of Dr. Hubner. No. 146 had been supposed to be lots, but is now built upside down into the inner face (south-western) of the north-western pillar of the gateway of Tretower House, on the left of the main road from Crickhowell to Talgarth. It is in good preservation, and reads ▷ VALENTI. F. The I is omitted by Dr. Hübner.

No. 147 is built into the north-east angle of the wall of a house called Tŷ-llys, on the northern side of the orchard of Tretower Castle. It is much more worn than No. 146, but is plainly

▷ PEREGRI  
NI. FEC.

Dr. Hubner omits the centurial mark ▷, at the commencement of the inscription.

Since the close of the year some other inscriptions of interest have been brought to light, which will be embodied in the list for 1882, which I hope soon to have the pleasure of communicating to the Institute.

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Amongst the inscriptions described by Camden as existing in his time at Binchester, there is one which has much puzzled antiquaries, owing to the name of a cohort occurring in it, which is otherwise completely unknown, COH. I. CARTOV. That Camden was in error in giving this reading, I shall now endeavour to establish. In the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum (Julius F. VI, f. 295) there is a very different reading of it by Sir R. Sibbald, and he also gives another reading which he says was that of Sir Robert Cotton, Camden's companion.

According to Camden the commencement of the inscription was wanting. The three readings are these—

Camden.	Sibbald.	Cotton.
TRIB. COHOR. I CARTOV MARTI VICTORI GENIO LOCI ET BONO EVENTVI.	/ TRIB. OI... T CART * OVAL MARTI VETTO GENIO LOCI LIT. IXT.	AIRIB OLIST CARTOVAL MARTIVSTIO GENIO LOCI ET BONO.

It seems certain from the first extant line as given by Sibbald and Cotton that the COHOR. I of Camden is a conjecture of that author. From Sibbald we learn that there were traces of other letters before the T of TRIB, from Cotton we learn that at least the letter A was in that position. The inference at once is that (M)ATRIB. for *Matribus* was there.

From the combined testimony of the three versions of the inscription it will be seen that it is dedicated to a number of deities. Two other instances of similar dedications found in Britain may be given as bearing on this point.

(1)  
GENIO LOCI  
FORTVN REDVCI  
ROMAE. AETERN  
ET. FATO. BONO  
: : : : :

(2)  
MARTI  
MINERVAE  
CAMPESTRI  
BVS. HERCL  
VICTORIAE  
EPONAE  
: : : : :

No. 1 was found at the large station at Maryport. No. 2 at Castlehill, on the Antonine Wall, in Scotland.

The nature of this dedication would consequently lead us to conclude that instead of the name of a cohort being where Camden places it, the name of some deity or deities would be there. That the other two authors are right seems confirmed by the fact that out of five more altars recorded as found at Binchester, three are dedicated to *Matres*.

Two recent discoveries of altars at Binchester have made us acquainted with the fact that the station was garrisoned by the *Ala Vettonum* for some considerable time. The Vettones were a people of Portugal, whose territories lay between the Douro and the Tagus. What is more natural than that they would erect altars to the

gods of their native land and its neighbourhood. In the third line, therefore, I think Sibbald is right when he renders it as MARTI VETTO (NVM), "To the Vettonian Mars"—and this leads me to the chief point in the inscription, the letters in the first line after MATRIB. That the word is some ethnic adjective applied to the mothers there can be little doubt, and I have come to the conclusion that OLISIP has been the abbreviation, referring to Lisbon (*Olisipo*).

It was not only the *Matres* of *countries* who were worshipped, but we find examples of "mothers" presiding over towns, *e.g.*, Orelli, No. 2263, where we have MATRIS DEAE. BAIANAE. This seems to be another instance. A Portuguese *ala* worshipping the goddess mothers of Lisbon is exactly what might be expected.

Again, the third line I opine contains some other titles of the mothers. As we find an example (at Winchester) of a dedication to the "Italian, German, Gallic and Britannic mothers;" and at York, another to "the African, Italian and Gallic mothers;" so here I think there is another example. As Sibbald makes an ornamental stop to occur between CART and OVAL, the first portion may relate to the "Carthaginian mothers;" but I merely throw this out as a suggestion. I have some suspicion that the letters OVAL may have been in the original QVAR, and related to the "Quariates," a people of Gallia Narbonensis. The whole inscription would therefore read (exclusive of the missing lines)—

MATRIB. OLISIP  
CART. \* QVAR  
MARTI VETTO  
GENIO LOCI  
ET BONO  
EVENTVI