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ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS FOUND IN BRITAIN IN 1884.

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Again a fair average year of discoveries has to be reported. Though not of special importance, many of the inscriptions are of considerable interest as affecting the history of the localities where they were found.

Commencing with the Roman Wall, there was found in November last at Byker, closely adjoining Newcastle-on-Tyne, a small altar 1ft. 10in. high and 11 inches broad. A portion of the right hand side of the inscribed face has been worn off, as if by the sharpening of knives or other instruments. What is left of the inscription is :

IVL. MAX
IMVS. SAC
D.I.
O.
P E.
C V.
.....

Little can be made of this with the exception of the name of the dedicator *Jul(ius) Maximus*. He appears to have been a priest of some deity from the abbreviation SAC. for *Sacerdos*. Dr. Bruce would read the next line *D(ei) I(nvicti) (Mithrae)* which is very probable. The dedicator would therefore be a priest of "the invincible god Mithras." A peculiarity which occasionally occurs in Roman inscriptions is here exemplified ; the name of the dedicator appearing before the name of the deity to whom the altar is erected.

At the station of *Cilurnum* (Chesters) Mr. Clayton has been occupied during a great portion of the year in laying bare a large arched subterranean building situated

between the *castrum* and the river Tyne, and during the progress of the excavations several discoveries of inscriptions occurred. The first was in March, when the fragment of (apparently) an altar was turned up, inscribed—

RIEVS . COM
RO . SALVTE DE
VR . SEVERI

The commencement of all the lines is lost, and of the third line only the upper part of the letters remain. The first stroke in this line is part of the letter v. I was originally inclined to read the first and commencement of the second lines as (*Mat*)ribus Com(magenorum), although aware that Teutonic and Celtic races were generally recognised as the only worshippers of *Matres*; but we know from the dedication (Borghesi, *Œuvres*, vol. iii, p. 127) to the Pannonian and Dalmatian mothers, that their worship extended as far east as Hungary and Turkey. The presence of a cohort of Syrians on the Wall, and the fact of dedications to the *Dea Syria* occurring, led me to think that the worship of the *Matres* might have extended to the Semitic tribe of the *Commageni*. Fortunately M. Robert Mowat, the well known French archaeologist, drew my attention to the fact that at Aix in Savoy, and at other places in Gaul, we have instances of the worship of the *Matres Comedovae*. I consider M. Mowat to have pointed out the correct reading *Matribus Comedovis*, and other French archaeologists have, I believe, since agreed with him. The remainder of the inscription I take to be (*P*)ro salute De(cimi) (A)ur(elii) Severi. I think it to have been erected for the welfare of a private individual (as in many instances) rather than for that of an Emperor, though it has been suggested that DE(VOTI) may have been the word, of which DE only remains. This seems improbable; we should hardly find *Devoti* in this position.

A second fragmentary inscription was found in April of which the remaining letters were—

PER . CL
LEG . PR
SEP . NIL

The commencement of the lines only is left to us. In the first E and R are ligulate, and in the second P and R. There is little difficulty in reading this fragment. From

another inscription found at the same station we know that Septimius Nilus was Praefect of the 2nd Ala of the Astures in A.D. 221, this regiment at that time forming the garrison of the station. From another inscription found on the Wall, we know that there was in Britain in A.D. 223, an Imperial Legate named Claudius Xenophon. This inscription seems to embrace the two names, and should be read : “ *Per Cl(audium) (Xenephontem) Leg(atum) Pr(o) (praetore) (Curante) Sep(timio) Nil(o) (Praefecto Alae II. Asturum)*. The commencement of the inscription, which is lost, has probably referred to the restoration of some buildings, and the name of the emperor, in whose reign the work was done. He would be no doubt Alexander Severus, and Claudius Xenophon was probably the successor of Marius Valerianus, for the latter was Legate in A.D. 221-2, as we learn from inscriptions at *Cilurnum* and Netherby. The inscription has been in tablet form.

In May, two curiously carved stones were found built side by side into the walls of one the rooms of the building excavated. They were below the floor level. One had upon it what appears to be a phallic design, the other bore the figure of a bird, and above it what seem to be the letters

NEILO.

What these letters mean it is difficult to say. It has been suggested that they are a variation of NILO, and refer to the Praefect named in the last inscription.

Another fragment found at *Cilurnum* is inscribed

NN*
/
FOC

but little can be made of it. The NN may perhaps be part of the abbreviation ANN (for *Annos*). The last letter is imperfect, and may be c, g, or o.

In March also, a salmon fisher found in the river Tyne, near to the station, an inscribed fragment of rock, which had evidently fallen from a cliff above, some time previously. The lettering is in the main very rude, but it appears to be

SSTRIO
CINA . VOTO
NIRI . SECIN
NI .

In the first line T and R seem to be ligulate, in the third the

s—very rudely formed—is reversed, and more resembles z, whilst the n at the end of the same line is so disconnected that it may be ΛΙ. The commencement of all the lines is lost, and probably the commencement of the inscription. The third line may have contained (OFFI)CINA or some such word, followed certainly by VOTO, but no sense can be gathered from it. The stone is 3 feet high by 2 feet broad, and the inscription is confined to the upper half of its face. In October there was also discovered in the excavations before named, an altar 2ft. 6in. high, bearing upon its face a figure of Fortune, and the inscription

D A E
FORT . CO
NSERVATR
ICI . VENENV
S . GER . L . M

The first line is an abbreviation of DEAE which occurs in several other Britanno-Roman altars, but singularly enough, they are all dedicated to the same deity—Fortune. This line is upon the head of the altar. The second line is at the summit of the shaft, the first o being ligulate with the r and the second placed within the c. Then comes the figure of the goddess, and the remainder of the inscription is below. In the third line the v and a are ligulate, and in the fourth ENE are likewise tied. The whole inscription reads, *D(e)ae Fort(unae) Conservatrici Venenus Ger(manus) L(ibenter) M(erito)*. “To the goddess Fortune, the preserver, Venenus a German (dedicates this) willingly to a deserving object.”

This is the third dedication to Fortuna Conservatrix found in Britain. One was found at Netherby, where it is still preserved, the other found in 1612 at Manchester was long supposed to have been lost, but in May last I had the pleasure of re-discovering it amongst the Arundel marbles in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The whole of these newly discovered inscriptions are preserved by Mr. Clayton in his large museum at Chesters.

Near Gilsland on the line of the Wall, three centurial stones have recently been found, for copies of which I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. Bruce. They are

(1)
COH . VI
▷ CALEDO
NI . SECVND

(2)
) . COCCEI
REGVLI

(3)
COH . II
) LAETIA.

Dr. Bruce informs me that No. 1 was difficult to read, being much worn, but as far as he and the Rev. A. Wright could make it out, it was as above. The *v* and *o* in the second line are ligulate, as are the *vnd* in the third. As it stands it would read *Coh(ortis) Sextae Centuria Caledoni(i) Secund(i)*. "The century of Caledonius Secundus of the sixth cohort." The only doubt is as to there being such a name as *Caledonius*. The second inscription is plainly *Centuria Coccei Reguli*. "The century of Cocceius Regulus." The third is from Mr. Wright's reading. Neither of the letters which appear to be *Λ* in the second line have a horizontal stroke; the first is *Λ*, the second may be and probably is part of *N*. I would read it as *Coh(ortis) Secundae Centuria Laetini(iani)*.

In the wall of the north aisle of the church at Dearham, near Maryport, and at its west end, Dr. Hooppell informs me that he found during the last summer, the upper part of a Roman altar, used as a building stone, upon which could be traced the words

MATRIBVS

evidently the commencement of a dedication to the *Deae Matres*. It has probably been brought from the station at Maryport (*Axelodunum*.)

In October, 1879, during the restoration of the church at Brough-under Stanemore, two inscriptions were found built into the foundations of the south porch. One dedicated to Septimius Severus, I have already described.¹ The other seemed to be in such puzzling characters, that soon after its discovery, a cast of it was sent to Professor Stephens of Copenhagen, under the impression that it was Runic. This he doubted, but referred it to the Professor of Greek (in the same university), who after a lengthened examination, stated that it was in no known classical language or alphabet. Professors Mommsen and Hübner at Berlin, and Professor Kaibel were unable also to decipher it. Professor Stephens then attempted to read it as a Runic inscription, and a paper in vol. v. of the *Cumberland and Westmoreland Archaeological Society's Transactions* (pp. 291-310), was the result, which was reproduced in vol. iii of his "Runic Monuments." In this, the

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxviii, pp. 282-5.

Professor thought it to be the tombstone of a lady named Cimokom, who had been martyred for her Christianity.² But from the engravings which appeared of it, several English classical scholars came to the opinion that it was in Greek, though the letters were rude, and of what may be called a "rustic" type. Accordingly in the *Academy* for June 14, 1884, Professor Sayce brought forward a reading of the inscription in Greek, and after several months discussion in the pages of the same paper, in which Professors Sayce and Ridgeway, Messrs. Isaac Taylor, H. Bradley, E. L. Hicks and E. B. Nicholson, took part, a tolerably fair reading was finally established by Mr. Arthur J. Evans.³

The stone was subsequently purchased for the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, to which place it has recently been removed, and has been submitted to a critical examination by the most eminent authorities there. On the 23rd February last, Professor E. C. Clark read a paper upon it to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, bringing forward the following as the correct reading, as far as could be made out with certainty.

ΕΚΚΑΙΔΕΧΕΤΗΤΙΣ
ΙΔΩΝΤΤΜΒΩΣΚΕΦΘΕΝΤ
ΤΠΟΜΟΙΡΗΣ ΕΡΜΗ
ΚΟΜΜΑΓΗΝΟΝΕΠΟΣ
ΦΡΑΣΑΤΩΤΟΔΟΔΕΙΤΗΣ
ΧΑΙΡΕΣΤΠΑΙΠΑΡΕΜΟΤ
ΚΗΝΠΕΡΘΝΗΤΟΝΒΙΟ
ΕΡΠΗΣ ΩΚΥΤΑΤΕΠ
ΤΗΣΓΑΡΜΕΡΟΠΩΝΕΠΙ
ΚΙΜΜΕΡΙΩΝΓΗ ΚΟΤΨΕΤ
CEI ΓΑΡΟΠΑΙΣΕΡΜΗΣ
.....

The inscription evidently consisted of five hexameters which Professor Clark considers in their original form to have been

Εκδεχεται τις ιδων τυμβω σκεφθεντ υπο μοιρης
Ερμην κομμαγηνον επος φρασατω τις οδειτης
χαιρε συ παι παρ εμου κηνπερ θνητον βιον ερπης
ωκντατ επτης γαρ μεροπων επι Κιμμεριων γην
κου ψευσει αυτω γαρ ο παις Ερμη ακολουθει.

² In the *Antiquary* for September, 1884, Professor Stephens abandons his idea of

the inscription being Runic.
³ *Academy*, August 30, 1884.

though the last line is by no means agreed upon, even at Cambridge. Mr. Evans restores it differently. It is, however, probably premature as yet to venture on the exact wording, which may eventually be discovered. Professor Clark gives as a translation this "free metrical paraphrase."

Hermes of Commagene here—
 Young Hermes, in his sixteenth year—
 Entombed by fate before his day
 Beholding, let the traveller say :—
 Fair youth, my greeting to thy shrine
 Though but a mortal course be thine,
 Since all too soon thou wing'dst thy flight
 From realms of speech to realm of night ;
 Yet no misnomer art thou shewn,
 Who with thy namesake God art flown.

The only false quantity in the original is a syllable too much (*και*) in the first word, but this has probably been omitted in speaking. The seventh and first part of the eighth lines are the most difficult part of the translation. Mr. Evans thinks they refer to the youth having been taken prisoner in an engagement, and dragging on a life of captivity, an idea repudiated by Professor Clark. At present I prefer the translation of the latter, whose long and able paper should be perused by any antiquary interested in the matter. It is too long to reproduce here, and unless given *in extenso* would lose much of its value.

We have no other inscription in Britain referring to a native of Commagene. It is possible that Hermes, and the friend or relative who erected the monument, were members of the *Cohors I. Hamiorum*, a cohort of Syrian archers, of which several traces have been found in the north. This is by far the longest Greek inscription found in our island, and the first of a sepulchral character. The others have been upon altars, votive tablets, rings, &c. The stone, which is about two feet high and one foot broad, is flanked on the inscribed face by palm branches, and above the inscription is carved with a geometric pattern of squares, divided into triangles.

At Chester there was found, on the 31st October, in the course of an excavation between the Grosvenor Hotel and city wall (close to the Eastgate), the half of an altar, which had been split perpendicularly down the middle,

apparently to be used as a building stone. On the left side within a panel, there is a figure of a bird which has all the characteristics of a goose, and on the remaining half of the back is a portion of what seems to have been a serpent, but this is doubtful. On the remaining portion of the face the altar is thus inscribed

I O
O P T
M A X
V

The first line is in very large letters, the others are smaller. The base (on the front) is broken off, but judging by the size of the panel on the side, there would be room for at least another line of an inscription, and after the v in the fourth line, there appears to be a stop. The reading has certainly been *Jo(vi) Opt(imo) Max(imo)*, but whether v has been part of the *formula* v.s. for *V(oto) S(olutum)* or part of the name of the dedicator must remain unknown. The height of this altar is 3 feet 10 inches, and at the angles are pilasters, returned on each face; they bear two flutes each, and terminate in a foliated capital resembling Corinthian. The altar is of sandstone.

There was also found in the same city in November, in excavations made by Mr. Bullin in White Friars, a portion of an ordinary red tile, bearing upon it in very fine letters

IVLIV

which has probably, when entire, been *IVLIVS. F.*, the *F* standing of course for *Fecit*. The v and l are ligulate.

On the right side of the altar discovered in Chester in 1653 (Hübner, No. 167) I have found that there has been an inscription beneath the figure of the Genius. All that is now traceable is

G
C I . . .

which I apprehend has been part of the words *G(enio Sancto Lo)ci*, &c.

During the repewing of the nave of St. Mary's church at Lancaster, in the year 1863, a number of loose stones were taken up from the old floor, preparatory to a new one being put down. Amongst them was one which had

formed part of a Roman inscribed tablet, of the annexed shape and dimensions—



The stone came into the possession of the late Rev. Canon Turner, Vicar of Lancaster, and was preserved by him, but so carefully, that it was totally unknown to even local antiquaries. It is still at the Vicarage in possession of the Rev. Canon Allen. The letters on the stone are beautifully cut and are two inches in height, with the exception of the three larger ones. The only ligature is in the case of the *r* in the second line, which letter is formed upon the upright stroke of the *t*.

The inscription is important, as confirming the existence of Lancaster as a Roman station, in the reign of Trajan. Previously, from a milestone dedicated to Hadrian having been found in the neighbourhood, I had expressed the opinion that he was the emperor by whose orders the *castrum* was erected. This discovery proves that in the reign of his predecessor (Trajan) important structures were built. The stone, when entire, has been a tablet commemorating their erection. The inscription *apparently* reads: *Imp(eratori) Ner(vae) Trajan(o) Aug(usto)*, &c. The omission of *CAES* for *Caesari* after *IMP.* is peculiar, but there are examples of it. With the exception of two inscriptions found at Chichester, this is the earliest *on stone* naming an emperor, found in Britain. A few tombstones of soldiers may, however, be earlier, and an inscription found at York (also dedicated to Trajan) may be coeval. No Roman inscription of so early a date, either on stone, bronze, or lead, has been recorded as found so far to the north previously.

In the recently published correspondence of Dr. Stukeley¹ there are two letters addressed to him by Mr. Samuel Peele, an excise officer at Lancaster, dated in 1754, containing an account of a Roman inscribed altar, which is said to have "tumbled out of the earth" at that town about December, 1753 and the only letters visible were said to be

V
C
M
I i i E
D SERO E
T VO EA

Nothing can be made out of this. Possibly the two small *i*'s are meant for II. The altar when found was said to have had "three elliptical cavities" "on the top," but they were soon afterwards struck off. On one side was a representation of an axe (*securis*) on the other of a *patera*. This altar has not been heard of since.

On the 12th March during the excavations necessary for laying the foundations of the new tower of St. Swithin's church at Lincoln, the workmen at a depth of 13ft. from the surface came upon a Roman altar lying face downwards in a bed of gravel. It is formed of a block of oolite 3ft. high, and at the base 1ft. 8in. broad. On the right hand side is engraved a *praefericulum*, on the left a *patera*. The head of the altar with the focus is much mutilated. On its face is the following inscription—

PARCIS . DEA
BVS . ET . NV
MINIBVS . AVG .
C . ANTISTIVS
FRONTINVS
CVRATOR . TER.
AR . D . S . D .

The letters are well cut, and well preserved; the stops are of triangular shape. The only difficulty in the reading is in TER. in the third line. The Rev. Precentor Venables favoured me with a copy of the inscription on the day of its discovery, and I at once asked him to make certain if there was a stop after TER. as I had an idea, though there is no epigraphic or historical authority for such a *Curator*, that we might have TERAR., for TERRAR(VM) in the last two lines. The stop however is plain and AR

¹ Surtees Society's Publications, vol. lxxvi, pp. 242-3.

is doubtless the abbreviation for ARAM. We must therefore either take TER. as a word in itself, or look for some other abbreviation.

Professor Mommsen wrote to me suggesting TER(TIVM) as the reading. Dr. Hübner informed Precentor Venables that he considered TER. (three times) was simply the meaning, but if either of these be accepted it leaves us still in the dark as to the question, "Of what was Frontinus the Curator?" As the altar was found close to the north bank of the river Witham, on the verge of the Roman area, I am inclined to suggest *Curator ter(minorum)*. It is true that we have no precedent for this reading, but inscriptions are constantly giving us examples of titles otherwise unknown¹. Hence I would expand the inscription *Parcis Deabus et Numinibus Aug(usti) C(aius) Antistius Frontinus Curator Ter(minorum) Ar(am) d(e)s(uo) d(edit)*. "To the goddesses, the Parcae, and to the "divinities of the Augustus" (the reigning emperor) "Caius Antistius Frontinus, Overseer of the boundaries, "of his own" (or "at his own expense") "has given" ("this altar)."

Only three other inscriptions dedicated to the *Parcae* (or "Fates") have been found in Britain, at least so far as recorded. Two were found in 1861 in English Street, Carlisle, and the third in 1866 at Skinburness, near the mouth of the Solway. In the latter and in one of those found at Carlisle they are styled *Matres*, but in none of them is the title *Deae* given to them, as in the Lincoln example. This altar is at present preserved in the cloister at Lincoln.

The discoveries at York consist in the first place of a fragment of a dedicatory tablet inscribed—

CAES . M . AV .

The letters M.AV. are ligulate with each other. From this circumstance I am inclined to think that the Emperor referred to is either Caracalla or Elagabalus, each of whom took the names of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, rather than the earlier emperor Marcus Aurelius. Though ligatures as a rule, however, show a late date, the test is not an infallible one, as other inscriptions prove. The

¹ If Curator had been used here to designate a military officer, we should have had the name of the corps to which he belonged following.

inscription was found in excavating for the foundations of the new Mechanic's Institute in Clifford Street in 1883, but came to hand too late for my list for that year. The stone has the appearance of having been used for sharpening some kind of implement at a later period.

At "The Mount," outside Micklegate Bar, two broken altars have been found. Of one the base only remained, and on it were the letters

S . P . R .

rudely cut. I should surmise that D. has preceded these letters, and the reading would then be *D(e) S(ua) P(ecunia) R(estituit)*, "At his own cost has restored" (the altar).

The other altar was more interesting. Though broken into numerous fragments, some of which had been lost, the remainder yielded the following inscription—

D
SILV .
L . CELERNIVS
VITALIS . CORNI .
LEG . VIII . HIS .
V . S . L . M .

FIDONVMHOCDONVM
ADPIRTINEATCAVTVMATTIGAM.

The first portion of this inscription is easily restored and read. It is, without doubt, *D(eo Sancto) Silv(ano) L(ucius) Celernius Vitalis Corni(cularius) Leg(ionis) VIII. His(panae) V(otum) S(olvit) L(aetus) L(ibens) M(erito)*.

"To the holy god Silvanus, Lucius Celernius Vitalis a *cornicularius* of the Ninth Legion (surnamed) the Spanish, performs his vow willingly (and) joyfully to a deserving object."

The second part of the inscription is more peculiar. It is in very small letters, and through the last line there is a fracture. The reading here given is that of Dr. Hübner, as published in the *Academy*, July 12th, 1884. The expansion would be—*Fido num(ini) hoc donum adpirtineat (vel appertineat) cautum attigam*. Canon Raine speaking of this reading says: "The young officer, grateful to the deity who had often shown himself trustworthy by bringing the deer or wild boar to the hunter, makes a special reservation of the altar. It is to be specially sacred, and safe from profane hands. In 'cautum attigam' we are reminded of the 'cave vestem attigas' of Accius. The prohibition may refer to

the offering, or to the altar, or to both." This translation depends upon the first letter being correctly read. It seems doubtful, from what Canon Raine tells me in answer to enquiries, whether it is F or E. M. Robert Mowat is inclined to read EI. DONVM as the commencement of the line. This, of course, would alter the reading considerably. The two i's in the second line are equivalent to E. This variation frequently occurs. The two G's in *Attigam* are an error, either of the dedicator, or stone cutter.

At the end of October, in making some ornamental grounds at the rear of the Rose and Crown Inn, Ilkley (*Olicana*), the workmen came upon (amongst other discoveries) an old rubble wall, two feet beneath which (as if used for the foundation of it) was a large slab of stone, six feet long, thirty inches wide, and rough at the back. The upper portion of the face of the slab, bears the representation of a female sitting in a chair, within a recess. This figure is three feet in height, and underneath there is an inscription in four lines, of which the following portion remains :—

DIS . (M)ANIBVS .
VE *IC * * * * * NCONIS . FILIA
ANNORVM . XXX . CCORNOVIA .
H . S . E .

The M of *Manibus* in the first line is obliterated, and of the name of the deceased we have only VE*IC** but of her father's name we have the termination—NCONIS in the genitive, followed by FILIA. The whole reads *Dis Manibus Ve*ic *****-nconis Filia, Annorum xxx C(ivis) Cornovia. H(ic) S(ita) E(st)*. "To the divine shades of . . . daughter of . . . thirty years of age a Cornovian citizen. Here she is laid." This is the first allusion to a Cornovian citizen which has occurred in a Britanno-Roman inscription. Who the Cornovii were is still a matter of uncertainty. The *Notitia* names a cohort of Cornovii as stationed at *Pons Aelii* (Newcastle on Tyne), but no traces of it have yet been found. As the Romans would hardly employ a British cohort against fellow countrymen, the *Cornovii* were probably a Continental people, and quite distinct from the *Cornavii*, mentioned by Ptolemy as inhabiting parts of Cheshire and Shropshire.

On an altar found at *Procolitia*, on the Roman Wall, the name of *Venico* occurs. Is it possible we should read the

name of the subject of this inscription as *Venica*, *Veniconis filia*?

Another inscription found in Yorkshire, as far back as 1880, has remained inedited. In that year there was found at Castleford, near Pontefract, close to the Roman road which passes through the town, at a depth of three feet, a Roman milestone $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and 1 foot in diameter, which was removed to Half Acres (the residence of Mr. Joseph Brewerton), a short distance from the place of its discovery, and where it still is.

After much correspondence with Mr. Brewerton (for I have not yet seen the stone) I have evolved a portion of the tenor of its inscription. It was first erected in the reign of the emperor Decius, A.D. 249-251, and after his death appears to have been inverted and an inscription to his successors, the joint emperors Gallus and Volusianus, cut on the other end. This last inscription is much more perfect than the other, and what I have so far made out of it is

IMPP
... C. VIBIO
GALLO. ET. C. V
VOLVSI
NO. P. F.
AVGG EB
.....
XXI

I should expand this (supplying doubtful portions) as *Imp(eratoribus Caesaribus) C. Vibio Gallo et C. V. Volusiano P(iis) F(elicibus) Aug(ustis) Eb(uraco) (Millia passuum) XXI*. The stone is soon to be photographed, when I hope to put the reading of the obscure portions of the inscription beyond dispute. Castleford is generally thought to have been the site of the station called in the Fifth Iter of Antoninus *Legeolium*, and in the Eighth Iter *Lagecium*, in each being named as twenty-one Roman miles from York, the distance thus agreeing with the numerals upon the stone.

The inscription upon the other end of the stone appears more worn and consequently more obscure. All that I can make out *with certainty* from the written copies sent me is

IMP. C
C. M. Q
DECIO
.....
.....
.....

i.e., *Imp(eratori) C(aio) M(essio) Q(uinto) Decio*. In the *Academy* (Feb. 28, 1885) I have given my conjectures as to the remainder of the inscription, but I forbear from putting them on record in the *Journal*, as probably I shall soon be able to give the correct reading.

Dr. Hooppell informs me that in addition to the graphitic inscription found at Binchester¹ the following also occurred there

(1)
PIE .

(2)
.. VSDOM .

besides seven others which seem to be, clearly, numerals.

During the months of July and August, in the course of excavations at the corner of Castle-street, Bevis Marks, in the city of London, amongst a large number of Roman sculptures built up into a more recent wall, were found fragments of two inscriptions which, as sent to me by Mr. J. E. Price, seem

(1)
AVI
NTIO
R . LXX

(2)
IVL
.
S.
DO.

Of the first, I gave the opinion to Mr. Price that it was part of a sepulchral stone, which, when entire had read :

(D . M .)
AVI(DIVS)
(A)NTIO(CHVS)
(ANNO)R . LXX.

The R in the last line is on a much smaller scale than the other letters. Its reading, of course, would be *D(iis) M(anibus) Avi(dius) (A)ntio(chus) (Anno)r(um) LXX*, *i.e.* "To the divine shades, Avidius Antiochus of seventy years of age." The stone is 1 foot high by 8½ in. broad. The second inscription, when originally sent to me, had merely the commencement of the first and last lines visible—IVL. and DO—with flutings to the left of the lines, but there was space for fully two lines between the extant letters. On mentioning this to Messrs. Price and A. White, they re-examined the stone and found the letter s commencing another line but there is still a gap, and I have no doubt whatever that we have the commencement of four lines, one of which has yet to be found. Unfortunately the stone is much covered with cement, &c., which cannot well be got off without damaging the inscription. This

¹ Given in my list for 1880.

stone is about eighteen inches square, including the side flutings.

Some two months later further excavations were made adjoining the site of these discoveries, when a quantity of Roman sculpture was found, some of it evidently from tombs of considerable size. The following inscriptions also occurred :

(1)
CANDIDI

(2)
ET MEMORIA
ELIAE NVMIDI
NTISSIMA . FEMI
RELIQVA CAV

No. 1 is on the edge of a large flag-stone, and the last letter comes close to where it has broken off. There is room for one or two letters at the commencement, and I suggested that under the mortar with which the stone is covered the centurial mark \triangleright might be hidden, but the London antiquaries say it is not there.

The second is a fragment of a large inscription broken at each end. On the right the breakage is perpendicular or nearly so, but on the left it is diagonal. There have been letters before *ET* but they are so filled up with cement and worn as not to be distinguishable. There can, however, be little doubt they were D.M., and I would read the first two lines *D(iis) M(anibus) et memoria(e) (A)eliae Numidi(ae)*. In the third line we seem to have *Pientissima* instead of *Pientissimae*, or I should have continued it as *Pientissimae Feminae*. As it is, the name of another female must have preceded these words. In the last line *Reliqua causa* seem to be indicated, but the sentence cannot be construed as it stands. All of these stones are now in the Guildhall Museum.

At Bath there has lately been found a portion of a frieze, during the excavations at the Roman baths there, bearing the following letters, which are $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches high :

S S I L

Though unimportant of themselves, they require to be put on record as it is very probable the remainder of the inscription may be found.

At Manton (near Marlborough) on the Wiltshire Downs, there was discovered in January, near the racing establishment of Mr. A. Taylor, "in levelling the inequalities in the surface of the ground near the house," a number of

silver and brass Roman coins ranging from Julian to Honorius, a quantity of Roman pottery, two skeletons, twelve large pewter dishes, and a vase and amphora of the same metal. The largest of the dishes was two feet in diameter, and the remainder graduated in sizes down to one foot. On the broad rims of many of them were elaborate ornamentations; and on one, seventeen inches in diameter, a name was scratched, but the lettering was very indistinct. Mr. F. M. Russell, of Marlborough, informs me that it seemed to be either

L BIINÆ or MRIINÆ.

Some fresh information with regard to previously discovered inscriptions remains to be noticed. On the leaden stamp found at Chester and given by Dr. Hübner (C. I. L., vii, No. 1268), as

▷ CL . AVG
VIC

it appears that the last line should be *vig.* Hence I consider it as referring to the Roman fire-brigade at Chester. As there would be no necessity for a cohort of *Vigiles*, but probably only two or three *centuriae*, I would read the inscription as *Centuria Cl(audii) Aug(ustalis) Vig(ilum).*

Dr. Hübner's No. 1168, which when I wrote my paper upon the station *Navio*, named in it,¹ was supposed to be lost, has recently been rediscovered in the possession of Mr. F. Beresford Wright, of Wootton Court, Warwick, and by him has been presented to the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.²

The inscription found at Ilkley which I published in *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxi, p. 345, and then supposed to be lost, is now preserved at the Vicarage at Arncliffe. It had been given by Mr. Carr to the Rev. Canon Boyd.

In vol. xxxvii of the *Journal*, p. 149, I have read the commencement of the inscription on the stone found at the Roman station at Beckfort as *LIA*. It should probably be *LINA*, as in the photographs which I have of it, and in

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, pp. 49-55.

² Although the writer made enquiries through the medium of a letter in the *Derby Mercury* as far back as 1877, re-

garding the ownership of this stone, nothing could be ascertained until Mr. W. H. St. John Hope in 1884, forwarded a letter to the same journal, and with the satisfactory result named above.

a copy of the inscription sent to me by the Rev. Dr. Hooppell the A appears thus, A. The diagonal stroke is evidently meant to join the I.

The inscription TALIOF. which I have given in the *Journal*, vol. xli, p. 185, should probably read TALIO.F. Two *patellæ* bearing this stamp have been found on the continent; one, discovered in Pomerania, is now preserved in the Berlin Museum, and the other, from Transylvania, is now in the Museum at Vienna.

The two inscriptions which I have given in vol. xli of the *Journal*, p. 185, from the Rawlinson MSS. at Oxford, are, I find, also given in the fly sheets of Ward's copy of Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, in the British Museum.

P.S.—From a correct transcript, recently obtained by Dr. Bruce, I find that the inscription built up into the walls of Jedburgh Abbey, which I published in *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 365, should be

I. O. M. VEX
ILATIO. RETO
RVM. GAESA
Q. C. A. IVL
SEVER. TRIB.

Dr. Bruce expands it as *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) Vexillatio Raetorum Gaesa (torum) q(uorum c(uram) a(git) Jul(ius) Sever(us) Trib(unus)*.¹ I am not aware whether Dr. Bruce has noted its bearing on two other inscriptions found at Risingham, in each of which the abbreviation VEXIL. G. R. occurs, which should be read *Vexil(latio) G(aesatorum) R(aetorum)*. Dr. Hübner² expands the contraction as *Vexil(larii) G(ermani) R(aeti)*, though at the same station he was the original discoverer of the *Raeti Gaesati* in another inscription (*C. I. L.* vii, No. 1002). We also probably have the same force mentioned in *C. I. L.* vii, No. 731, though Dr. Hübner seems to have overlooked the fact.

A vexillation of Raeti and Norici is mentioned on an altar found at Manchester.³

The Jedburgh inscription I find was first (though incorrectly) given in Jeffrey's *History of Roxburghshire* (1864), pp. 255-7.

¹ *Athenæum*, May 2nd, 1885. ² *C. I. L.* vii, Nos. 987-988.

³ *Roman Lancashire*, p. 109.