

# ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS FOUND IN BRITAIN IN 1887.

By W. THOMPSON WATKIN.<sup>1</sup>

Owing to the exceptionally large number of inscriptions discovered at Chester, the year 1887 exceeds the average. Otherwise it would have been a poor one.

The wall of Hadrian and its neighbourhood has (including fragments) yielded six inscribed stones. In pulling down some old farm buildings at Caervoran (*Magna*), Mr. Clayton's workmen found three stones inscribed as follows :

(1)	(2)	(3)
> FELICIS	NEI	ID L
P. XX. P.	IN AE	VSPA

No. 1, which is within a border, with *ansae* at the sides, occurs upon a stone 3 ft. 6 in. long, and apparently reads "*Centuria Felicis per passus* (or *per pedes*) xx." "The century of Felix (made) 24 paces (or feet)." I prefer "feet."

Nos. 2 and 3 are mere fragments, from which nothing can be gathered. In No. 2 the N and E in the first line are ligulate, as are also the N and A in the second line. The E in this line, from the fact of its being reversed, (it is also on the very edge of the stone), has no doubt been likewise ligulate with some other letter.

In December there was found built upside down, into the splay of one of the windows of an old pele tower at Newburn-on-Tyne, (which place lies south of the great

<sup>1</sup> A melancholy interest attaches to the following paper, inasmuch as it was one of the last works to which the author

put his hand, before his lamented death on March 23rd, 1888.—Ed.

wall, and between the stations at Benwell and Rutchester), another centurial stone. The tower now stands within the steel works of Messrs. Spencer and Co., who had the stone taken out and a thick coating of whitewash, which covered it, removed, when they presented it to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The inscription upon it is—

LEG	LEG XX.V.V	
XX	CHO.IIII	
	>LIB.FRO	
	>TERE MAG	

The stone is 14 inches long by 11 broad, and on each side of the main inscription is a standard, that on the left being inscribed with the number of the Legion LEG.XX, "on the inner top corner of this, is what appears to be an eagle (partly covering the letter L) perched. In the centre between the names of the centuriae is an eagle with a garland in its mouth." The expansion will plainly be *Leg(ionis) Vicesimae V(aleriae) V(ictricis), C(o)ho(rtis) IIII, centuria Lib(urnii) Fro(ntonis) (et) centuria Tere(ntii) Mag(ni)*, and the translation "The century of Liburnius Fronto, (and) the century of Terentius Magnus of the Fourth cohort of the Twentieth Legion, the Valerian the Victorious (erected this)." The name of Marcus Liburnius Fronto occurs also on an altar at the neighbouring station of *Condercum* (Benwell) as a centurion of the Second Legion. It is perhaps that of the same officer, he being afterwards transferred to the Twentieth Legion.

In the 3rd Vol. of the correspondence between Dr. Stukeley and Dr. Gale recently issued (*Surtees Soc. Publications*. Vol. 80) p. 137, the following inscriptions are given, as having been found at Caervoran (*Magna*) on the Wall of Hadrian.<sup>1</sup> Of these No. 1 was on an altar :

(1)	(2)	(3)
DEO	COH:BARVORVM	X XI
VETERIV		AVRIL***
	(5)	MATIRL***
(4)	...ORIP.	RISSIMEPX
..RI..TE		

<sup>1</sup> They are contained in a letter dated Nov. 12, 1757, from the Rev. B. Peile, of Hexham, to James Jurin, Esq., of the

Hermitage, West Acomb, Northumberland. They were communicated to Mr. Peile by Mr. John Walton, of Corbridge.

and has apparently read *Deo Veterino* (or *Veterineo*) like many others which have been found at the same station, or in its neighbourhood. If the linear divisions are correctly given by Mr. Walton, it cannot be one of the examples previously published, but a totally fresh one.

No 2 may possibly be Dr. Hübner's No. 777, incompletely given, though the latter has a second line and the letter F after it. Mr. Walton says that the stone he gives was "much obliterated in the last letter." It has named the *Cohors I. Batavorum*, and I am inclined to think that it, Dr. Hubner's No. 777, and the inscription I have given in *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 260 (No. 6) are three different stones. No. 3 is without doubt part of a tombstone. The first letters we have are numerals, probably the remains of xxxi, the age of the deceased. The second line has been, I think, *Aurelia*, with perhaps a *cognomen* added, or if not, the third line may have contained the latter, in the word *Materna*, though this line has I expect an I too many in it, and the reading should be *Matri (ca)rissimae p'(osuit)*. Mr. Walton says of the stone "This had been a very large stone, as appears from the left hand side, which is entire. I could not say when on the spot whether the last letter should be P. or R, but have marked it as on the remains of the stone."

Of No. 4, he says "This stone was so broken in the rubbish nothing more was visible," and of No. 5, "This is the remains of another."

And at p. 138 we have—

(6)	(7)	(8)
COH.III > CLAVG	COH.III	I.O.M.
VSTAVI	)SOCELAVNA	

No. 6, I would expand *Coh(ortis) III., centuria Cl(audii) Augustani*. Mr. Walton remarks concerning it "This stone was carried to London, as I understand, being found some two years ago."

No 7 plainly should be expanded *Coh(ortis) III. centuria Socelauna*. "The century Socelauna<sup>1</sup> of the third cohort." It was found near a turret north-west from Walltown.

No 8 is the commencement of a dedication to Jupiter and Mr. Walton says of it, and of the inscription to be next referred to, "there was another stone which began

<sup>1</sup> So called from the name of its commander Socelaunus.

I.O.M. I took both down, and for want of paper could not save one for myself. The latter (*i.e.* I.O.M.) is all broken since. But the farmer tells me he gave them to Mr. Dawson of Wall."

The other stone referred to is Dr. Hubner's No. 706, of which Mr. Walton gives a somewhat different reading. It is:—

MARTI VICTORI  
COH. JIIII NERVIOVRVM C.:I  
PRAEFFECT. I. CANINIVS  
. . . . . M

In his copy of the inscription he places C.:I intermediate between the second and third lines, but says that it is at the end of the second line, and may be CIVI or CNI. He adds that nothing more was legible, but he was persuaded that neither half the stone, nor inscription, was there.

The numerals preceding the nationality of the cohort in this inscription have, previously, generally read as III. At the end of the third line the letters we should *look for*, would be CR for *C(ivium) R(omanorum)* but this does not agree with Mr. Walton's account. The latter version would suggest CVI.P. for *Cui p(raeest)* but in that case I. CANINIVS should precede PRAEFFECT. I opine Mr. Walton's PRAEFFECT should be PRAEEST, which with CVI preceding it would thus be in order. Nothing has been given after NERVIOVRVM in the second line, in the previously known copies of the inscription. The only point now in dispute is the number of the cohort. The last line has contained the *cognomen* of the commander, followed by PRAEF or TRIB, and the formula v.S.L.M. Mr. Walton also describes Dr. Hübner's No. 960 as being found at Caervoran, and seen by him. To that station we must accordingly assign it instead of Netherby, where it now is. Both Mr. Walton and Lysons (in the *Magna Britannia*) add an F after v.S.L.M. which is singular, as it does not appear to be on the stone.

The Rev. R. E. Hooppell, LL.D., has informed me that in the crypt of Hexham Church (in which previously so many Roman inscriptions have been found) there is built up a large stone, from which several lines of inscription have been chiselled off, but that towards its base are the letters

apparently commencing one of the lines. As Dr. Hübner's No. 481 was found in the year 1726, built up into the wall of this crypt, but has since disappeared, and as one of its lines towards the base began with these letters, I have conjectured that instead of a new inscription it is merely a rediscovery of the one named.

In April, whilst the workmen were laying water (or gas) pipes a little to the west of the Roman *castrum* at South Shields, they discovered a Roman altar 2 ft. 6 in. high, 12 in. wide and bearing on one side a representation of a *patera* and *præfericulum*. The other side was defaced but the front bore this inscription :—

MART. ALA  
D. VENICIUS  
CELSVS  
PRO SE. ET . . .  
V. S. L. M.

which I should expand *Mart(i) Ala(tori) D(ecimus) Venicius Celsus pro se et (Suis) V(obum) S(olvit) L(ibens) M(erito)*<sup>1</sup> “To the winged Mars, Decimus Venicius Celsus for himself and his (family) performs his vow willingly to a deserving object.” The only doubtful letter is the initial of the *praenomen* (D). We have another instance in Britain of a dedication to Mars Alator, on a silver plate found at Barkway, Herts, and now preserved in the British Museum. It is engraved by Lysons in his *Reliquiae Britannico Romanae*, and given by Dr. Hübner (C. J. L. vii No. 85). It is in the possession of Mr. Robert Blair, F.S.A.

In September there was found at low water mark, on the Herd Sands in front of the same *castrum*, a bronze *patera*, six inches in diameter, *minus* the handle. Round a central boss, inside the bottom of the vessel, are the words :

A POLLINI. ANEXTIOMARO. M. A. SAB.


The expansion of this seems plainly to be *Apollini Anextiomaro M(arcus) Antonius Sabinus*, “Marcus Antonius Sabinus to Apollo Anextiomarus.” The last word sounds harsh and anything but euphonious, but equally uncouth names of divinities occur in epigraphy, especially in the inscriptions of Gaul, and it was a Gaulish cohort which garrisoned<sup>2</sup> South Shields. Mr. Blair is also the possessor of this vessel.

<sup>1</sup> See *Academy*, April 30 and May 7, 1887.

<sup>2</sup> See *Academy*, 1st and 8th October, 1887.

In the early part of the summer, a "slip" occurred at the east end of the north wall at Chester. In the course of the repairs which followed several Roman sepulchral stones were found. It was ascertained that the wall at this point was composed of massive stones wrought, and unwrought, also cornices, copings, friezes from classic buildings, and sepulchral slabs, laid down as best they could be, without mortar, and with earth filling the openings between the stones. The wall here was twenty feet high, nine feet wide at the base, and banked up on either side with eight, ten, and even twelve feet of earth. The outside face was formed of massive, well-wrought stones, without mortar. During the repairs eighteen inscribed stones, largely sepulchral, were recovered. The interest aroused by these discoveries led, later in the autumn, to the formation of a committee for further exploring the walls. The result has been the recovery of thirteen inscribed stones also sepulchral. The number of carved stones is considerable, so that altogether, in the space of twenty yards of wall, a rare museum of Roman antiquities has been found, leaving four hundred yards of similar walling yet to be explored.

The first series of inscriptions found *i.e.* during the excavations of July, August, and September, were as follows :

(1) L.ANNIVS.L.F TRO.MARCEL	(2) D. M FLAVI A.SATV RNINA	(3) D. M. M.SEXTIVS** CLAV.BELLIC** CLA.CELEIA.A* *ORVM.XX** ***PEND**	
 SVB ASCI ATD	(4) <div>D M</div> <div>M/.AVR.NEPOS.&gt;.LEG XX.V.V.CONIVX PIENTISSIMA.F.C VIX.ANNIS.L</div>		(5) PVB.>.LEG.V.MACED.ET. VIII.AVG.ET.II.AVG.ET.XX.V.V. VIXIT.ANNIS.LXII.ARISTIO LIB.H.F.C.
	(6) D. M FVRI.MAXI MI MIL.LEG.XX.V.V ST*****XXII H.F.C.	(7) D. M. M.AVRELIVS.ALEXAND PRAEF.CAST.LEG.XX. **NAT**RVSC~** **X.AN.LXXII*** ****ICES.H.S**	

(8)

*OMIT **VRNI **VIX **NXII	
------------------------------------	--

(10)  
D. M.  
\*\*\*\*\*ANA

(12)  
DIS.MANIBVS  
ATTANS N\*\*  
ATILIANVS.AN.X.  
PROTVS.AN.XII  
POMPEIVS  
OPTATVS.DO  
MINVS.F.C.

(13)  
\*\*\*\*\*G.XX.V.V  
\*\*\*\*\*X.ANN  
\*\*\*\*\*H.F.C.

(14)  
C.F.CIA  
SAV  
XXX

(15)  
V.S  
XXX  
I

(16)  
V  
IF

(17)  
AINV  
HNVS  
RVA  
.....  
....ST

(18)  
L.LLI  
H  
V

(19)  
CINCIN.F  
VETERANV  
VIX.AN.LXXX  
CVRA.AEL  
CANDI

No 1, which is on the upper portion of a tombstone, is within the head of an arched recess, the latter having probably contained a half length figure of the defunct, besides the remainder of the inscription. The expansion of what is left is evidently *L(ucius) Annius L(ucii) F(ilius) Tromentina (tribu) Marcel(lus)* or "Lucius Annius Marcel-lus the son of Lucius, of the tribe Tromentina. Above the recessed arch the head of the stone is triangular, and appears to be ornamented with a crescent in the centre, and two circular rings on each side. This stone mea-sures about 3 ft. by 3 ft.

No. 2 is on the left hand side of a slab, with space remaining on the left, for another inscription parallel with it. There has evidently been sculpture above, which is broken off, though traces are remaining. The expansion is simply *D(iis) M(anibus) Flavia Saturnina*. The lower portion of the stone, which contained the age &c, is broken off. The stone is now about 18 inches by 20 inches.

No. 3 is on a slab of stone at present about 3 ft. 9 in. by 2 ft. 4 in. The ends of all the lines are broken off, also the commencement of the fifth and sixth lines. The expansion of what is left is *D(iis) M(anibus) M(arcus) Sextius [Marci Filius] ? Clau(dia tribu) Bellic(us)*

*Cla(udia) Celeia Annorum xx. . . (Sti)pend(iorum) . . &c.*, or translated :—To the gods the shades—Marcus Sextius Bellicus, the son of Marcus of the Claudian tribe, (a native of) Claudia Celeia of . . . . years of age and . . . of service.” The town of Celeia is known from other inscriptions (especially Orelli No. 501) to have borne the prefix of Claudia. It was in Noricum, and its modern representative is a place named Cilley. Though only one X and part of a second remain after *Annorum* in this inscription, it is quite possible that the age of the deceased may have been over thirty, for there would be room for one or two figures on the broken part.

No. 4 is a very important inscription. It occurs upon a stone which is 6 ft. 2 in. high, by 2 ft. 11 in. wide. On the upper portion, standing in a recess, is the figure of the deceased centurion, with that of his wife, on a smaller scale, on his left. Under his feet is the inscription, whilst there is a blank space beneath the figure of the wife. The expansion is *D(iis) M(anibus) M(anus) Aur(elius) Nepos centurio Leg(ionis) Vicesimae V(aleriae) V(ictoris) Conjux Pietissima F(aciendum) C(uravit) Vix(it). Annis Quinquaginta*, or translated :—“To the gods the shades—Manius Aurelius Nepos a centurion of the Twentieth Legion (styled) the Valerian, the Victorious, (His) most dutiful wife has caused (this) to be made. He lived fifty years.” It will be noticed that there is another stroke adjoining the last limb of the first letter M, thus **M/**. I at first thought the sculptor had intended to make out a ligulate abbreviation of *MAR*, for Marcus, and had left it unfinished; but the Rev. J. Hoskyns Abrahall informs me that this stroke is an abbreviation for Manius. Though it is different from the usual abbreviated representation of that *praenomen*, I am willing to accept Mr. Abrahall’s conjecture, and have consequently rendered the name as Manius. On the side of the stone, and reaching from the level of the head of the male figure to about his waist, is the smaller inscription, which evidently is to be expanded *Sub ascia t(itulum) d(edicavit)*, and above it are representations of both an *ascia* (or axe), and a *malleus* (or hammer). This is the first time that the phrase *sub ascia dedicavit* has been recorded as found in England, though in the south of France it is common. Antiquaries have



been much exercised as to its meaning, but an inscribed stone, to be dealt with immediately, seems to throw further light upon it. Previously to this, representations of the *ascia* (only) had occurred upon Roman tombstones at Lincoln and Colchester, but without any inscription.

No. 5 is on the face of a large block of stone, which has formed a base for what has probably been a large sculpture with the figure of the deceased. This base measures 1 ft. 5 in. in height, 3 ft. across the lettered face, and 2 ft. 9 in. from front to back. On its summit there is a cavity measuring 18 in. by 14, and 11 in. deep, the sides sloping. This seems to have been made to secure the missing upper stone. The first word of the inscription, PVB. is probably part of some such title as CVRAT. OP. PVB (*Curator operum publicorum*), and the remainder is clear:—*centurio Leg(ionis) v Macedonicae et viii Aug(ustae) et ii Aug(ustae) et xx V(aleriae) V(ictricis) Vixit annis lxi. Aristio Lib(ertus) H(eres) F(aciendum) C(uravit)*. “A centurion of the Fifth Legion (styled) Macedonica, and of the Eighth (styled) Augusta, and of the Second (styled) Augusta, and of the Twentieth (styled) Valeria Victrix. He lived for sixty-one years. Aristio (his) freedman (and) heir, caused (this) to be made.” The word ER, which occurs three times in the inscription, is in each instance, ligulate. Aristio appears to be a German name. The deceased would appear to have served as centurion, first of all in the Fifth Legion (this would doubtless be on the Continent) afterwards in the Eighth, Second, and Twentieth in succession, dying as an officer of the last named at Deva. The Second Legion, as well as the Twentieth, came over with Aulus Plautius in A.D. 43, and was under the command of Vespasian afterwards Emperor. From Continental inscriptions it also appears probable that a vexillation of the Eighth Legion came over at the same time, or in the next year with the Emperor Claudius, so that the officer whose monument this was, may have served in the three last named corps in Britain. At any rate he was apparently a man of mark in the station, and it is much to be wished that the upper part of his monument might have been disinterred, but unfortunately the wall, at the point where these stones were found, has been mortared and repaired, though other inscriptions were in sight.

No. 6 is on the lower part of a stone 2ft, 3 in high, by 1 ft. 10 in. broad, the upper portion of which bears a death bed scene, as in other instances. The deceased is represented in a semi-recumbent position upon a couch, in front of which is a tripod table, and holding a cup in his right hand. The expansion is *D(iis) M(anibus), Furi(i) Maximi Mil(itis) Leg(ionis) xx. V(aleriae) Victricis) St(ipend[iorum]) xxii. H(eres) F(aciendum) C(uravit)*. "To the divine shades of Furius Maximus, a soldier of the Twentieth Legion the Valerian the Victorious, of twenty two (years) of service. (His) heir caused (this) to be made."

No. 7 is interesting also. The stone is 1ft 11in high, by 3ft 2in wide, and the expansion of the lettering is *D(iis) M(anibus) M(arcus) Aurelius Alexand(er) Praef(ectus) Cast(rorum) Leg(ionis) xx \*\* Nat(ione) (Syrus) C(omma-genus) Vix(it) An(nos) lxxii \*\*\*\*\* H(ic) S(itus) (Est)*. To the gods the shades—Marcus Aurelius Alexander Praefect of the Camps of the Twentieth Legion . . . by nation (a native of) Syrian Commagene. He lived seventy-two years. He is laid here." As will be seen there are many letters missing. This arises from the stone being shattered. There can be little doubt but that vv (the usual abbreviations) have followed xx, and in the fourth RVC were the only letters at first detected after NAT. Mr. Shrubsole of Chester informed me that an s was visible before the c, from which I tentatively gave the reading (ET)RVSC(vs)., but M. Robert Mowat of Paris, from a rubbing sent him, detected part of an o after the c, and instead of r before R, recognised part of the letter y. This simplified the matter, and there can be no doubt but that his reading *Syrus Commagenus* is correct. Mr. C. Roach Smith, from the same or a similar rubbing assigned "*Ruconium* in Dacia, as the native place" of Alexander.<sup>1</sup> This I cannot accept. It is difficult to say what has been at the end of the fifth, and commencement of the sixth line. RCES as the termination of a word in this position seems puzzling.

This is the third inscription recorded as found in Britain naming a *Praefectus Castrorum*. The first found at Caerleon, is on an altar, dedicated by an officer of that

<sup>1</sup> *Chester Courant*. August 31, 1887.

rank, to the goddess Fortune. The second, found at Hexham is on an altar to Apollo Maponus by the *Praefectus Castrorum* of the sixth Legion, and the third is on this tombstone of the officer of the Twentieth Legion. Thus the three legions which were quartered in Britain for three or four centuries have each contributed an example of the presence of a functionary of this rank, who was the officer responsible for the formation and internal arrangements of both the permanent and the temporary camps of the legion.

Monuments of other praefects of these legions have been found abroad. Thus a few years since the tombstone of Publius Anicius Maximus, found near the ancient Antiochia Pisidiae, stated in its inscription that he had been PRAEF. CASTROR. LEG. II. AVG. IN. BRITANNIA, whilst at Tivoli, on a fragment of a tombstone, from which the name of the deceased had been broken off, we learn that he had been PRAEF. CASTR. LEG. VI. VICTR. (C. I. L. vol. xiv, No. 3634). Finally at Grotta Ferrata, about ten miles from Rome, there was found the monument of Marcus Pompeius Asper, who amongst other offices had held that of PRAEF. CASTR. LEG. XX. VICTR. (C. I. L. vol. xiv. No. 2523). The absence of *Valeria* before *Victrix* in this inscription, would seem to indicate that the monument is of early date.

This is the second instance which has occurred at Chester, of a native of Comma<sup>g</sup>ene, holding an important post in the Twentieth Legion. The other is on the large altar found in 1693 (*Roman Cheshire*, p. 171) where Flavius Longus a native of Samosata (the capital of the province) is named as being a tribune of the Legion. At Brough (*Verterae*) in Westmorland, another native of Commagene is commemorated on a tombstone; otherwise no others are recorded as found in Britain.

No. 8 is on a stone which is 4 ft. high, 3 ft. 2 in. wide at the summit, and 2 ft. 4 in. wide at the base. On the upper portion, within an arched recess, are two figures much worn, and beneath the feet of each is a panel. That on the left, which would seem to be beneath a female, bears an inscription. If the other panel was ever inscribed, the lettering has been entirely worn away, whilst the inscription on that on the left is also partially

obliterated, but it seems to read (D)OMIT. (SAT)VRNI (NA). IVX. (AN)N. XII. *i.e.*, *Domitia Saturnina Vixit annos xii.* "Domitia Saturnina, (she) lived twelve years." It is quite possible that instead of xii the numerals may be xli, and thus indicate that the deceased lived forty-one years. The stone is very much worn, and the figure above the inscription, as far as can be judged, much more resembles a middle-aged female than a child of twelve.

But the great interest of this stone consists in its bearing upon its side (like No. 4) representations not only of an *ascia* and *malleus*, but of a *scalper* (or chisel) and of a *ligo* (or spade), and this I suggest gives us the full meaning of the phrase *sub ascia dedicavit*, by shewing that it not only referred to digging the grave as some antiquaries have thought, or to sculpturing the monument as others have considered, but to both combined, as we have in this instance, all the necessary implements.

No 9 is, as far as the inscription goes, a mere fragment, only the letters D.M. for *D(iis) M(anibus)* remaining, but it is surmounted (like No. 6) by a representation of the death-bed scene, and is 4 ft. high by 2 ft. 10 in. wide. A semi-recumbent figure upon a couch holds a cup in the right hand, a tripod table is in front, and at the feet there is a figure of a child. An *ascia* and *malleus* are on the side of this stone also.

No. 10 is a stone of the same type as above, the defunct being semi-recumbent on a couch, with what appears like a large scallop shell behind, and the usual tripod table in front. Little more of the inscription is left than, in the last sentence, the termination of the *cognomen* INA or ANA (thus shewing the deceased was a female) remains, and the initial letters of *D(iis) M(anibus)*. The stone is 3 ft. 2 in. high and 2 ft. 11 in. wide.

No. 11 is on the upper half of a tablet which in its present state measures 2 ft. in height and is 2 ft. 9 in. broad. The expansion is plainly *D(iis) M(anibus) M(arcus) Cluvius M(arci Filius) Ani(ensis) (tribu) Valentius, Foro Julii.* There are several ligulate letters. Thus the I in ANI is formed by prolongation upwards of the last stroke of the N. In the same line L and E are ligulate, and the I in VALENTIVS is formed again by the upward prolongation of the perpendicular stroke of the T. In the last line

the first I is ligulate, in exactly the same manner, with the L. After M. in the second line the letter F is omitted (there are other similar examples) and the sculptor has placed a small I above, and ligulate with the I of CLVVI, as if he had intended at first to give the name of the deceased in the genitive. The *cognomen* which is given in the nominative, *Valentius*, shews however that *Cluvii* would be incorrect. The translation is, To the gods, the shades—Marcus Cluvius Valentius, the son of Marcus of the Aniensiensian tribe (a native of) *Forum Julii*. There were several places which bore the name of *Forum Julii*, the most eminent being the modern Frejus, and the modern Friuli. From the *tribus*, I incline to think Frejus is the place meant.

No. 12 has several fractures, but appears to be (expanded) *D(iis) Manibus Attanus An(norum) \* \* Atilianus An(norum) x, Protus An(norum) xii. Pompeius Optatus Dominus F(aciendum) C(uravit)*. "To the gods the shades—Attanus of — years, Atilianus of ten years, Protus of twelve years. Pompeius Optatus (their) master has caused (this) to be made." We have here the sole instance of the word *Dominus* being used as "master" which is recorded as having been found in Britain. Pompeius Optatus erects the monument to three of his young slaves. The stone is 4 ft. 10 in. high by 2 ft. 6 in. broad and there are several ligatures in the inscription. Both the A and I are ligulate with the N in *Manibus*. The v in Attanus is also ligulate with the N, whilst the two r's in Atilianus are formed by the upright prolongation of the T and L.

No 13 is on a stone which in its present state is only a portion of a long slab. The asterisks mark the commencement of the lines, which are broken off, as is also the entire upper part of the inscription embracing the name of the deceased. What is remaining, reads (*Leg(ionis) xx. V(aleriae) V(ictricis) (Vi)x(it) Ann(os) \* \* \* H(eres) F(aciendum) C(uravit)*). ". . . of the Twentieth Legion the Valerian the Victorious. He lived . . . years. (His) heir caused (this) to be made."

No. 14 is a mere fragment, the right hand upper corner of a tombstone. What appears to be CIA has I think been CLA and refers to the Claudian tribe. It is in the

normal position after C.F. and has been followed by the *cognomen* of the deceased, the latter, in turn, followed by the birth place *Savaria*, a well-known town of the tribe. The letters xxx are of course part of the age of the deceased which may have been either thirty or eighty years. Thus the whole, I take to be *C(aii) F(ilius) Cla(udia tribu) . . . . Savaria, (vixit Annos) xxx.* ". . . the son of Caius of the Claudian tribe, (a native of) Savaria. He lived thirty years."

No 15 is a fragment of a tombstone also. Beyond vs as the termination (apparently) of the *cognomen* and the numerals xxx, nothing can be made of it.

No. 16 is a fragment of an inscription in very fine letters, 6 in. high. It is on a fragment of shaly slate-like stone. At present the letters look like 1F with the lower portion of a v above them, but as the bases of the first two named are broken off and the 1 is on the edge of the fragment it is possible that they are portions of the letters NE. I do not think this has been a sepulchral stone, but one of a public nature. What may have been another portion of the same inscription, for the letters are of the same height and style, and the stone of the same character, was found some distance off, at the base of the wall in the Hop Pole Paddock, in February 1884, and was for some time in the possession of Mr. F. H. Williams by whom it was described, but is now in the Grosvenor Museum. It consists of the greater part of the letter N, with fragments of other letters.

Numbers 17 and 18 are mere fragments, apparently sepulchral, from which nothing can be gathered. Before it was noticed that letters were upon No. 17, the workmen had begun to re-chisel it, and thus destroyed a considerable portion of the inscription.

No. 19 is puzzling. We have the commencement of apparently *all* the extant lines, but not the termination. There is a large space on the left hand side of the stone unoccupied, and there appears to be a blank above the first line. Yet we cannot have *the whole of the inscription*. Its commencement is certainly wanting. Its present state enables us to gather that it commemorates a veteran who lived eighty years (*Vixit annos lxxx*) and that it was erected by the care of some one whose *nomen* was

Aelius, and his *cognomen* (probably) Candidus. But the name with which the inscription commences is singular. We know of the *nomina* Ciminus, Cincius, Cinius, &c., and of the *cognomina* Cinnus, Cincinatus, &c., but the F ought to succeed the *praenomen*. The defunct would consequently appear to be the son of one bearing a barbaric name, probably Latinised, and we can simply suggest *Cincinus* or *Cincinius*. This stone is 2 ft. 6 in. in width, and 1 ft. 9 in. in height.<sup>1</sup>

There has also recently been added to the Chester Museum a fragment found in August 1883, in lowering the ground behind the King's School. It is 7½ inches wide by 6 inches high and is inscribed

M I I C

The two I's are very close together and may stand as in other cases for E, but no reading can be attempted. Both the commencement and the end of the line are broken off.

In the *Journal* vol. xxxv, p. 73, and again Vol. xli, p. 188, I described a fragmentary sepulchral inscription naming a certain Julius Secundus, now preserved in the Chester Museum. Mr. F. H. Williams of that city has lately published an account of this stone, from a sketch preserved in a copy of *Hemingway's History of Chester*, in the possession of Mr. Thomas Hughes, F.S.A. From this it appears that the stone was found "near the Castle" in 1831, and that it was twenty-four inches high, by fourteen wide. The following letters are given as existing *above* the lines on the still extant portion.

M  
P R : I M  
A E N A

It would therefore seem that about one half of the stone has been broken off since it was found, and that even then it was not quite complete. The letter D, the commencement of the *formula* D.M. is missing, and we can gather nothing satisfactory from the other letters of the newly published portion as given.

During the recent visit of the British Archæological Association to Cheshire, the members inspected a number

<sup>1</sup> For further particulars as to the whole of these stones, see my letters in the *Academy* for September 3rd, 17th 24th, Oct. 1st and 8th, and Dec. 17th, 1887; in

*Chester Courant* for Sept. 21st and Oct. 5th, 1887, and my paper on them in *The Reliquary*, January 1888, p. 38-42.

of undoubted Saxon stones now kept in the "hearse house" near the church, at West Kirby. They were found during the restoration of the latter building in 1869-70, when traces of an earlier and Norman nave were met with. Among these Saxon stones are two inscribed fragments, which were recognised as of Roman origin, and bearing inscriptions. The first of these, which is twelve inches by seven, has evidently been part of a tombstone, and the extant letters (much worn) seem to be:—

D	M
O	F
P	N
T	O

The letters are rudely formed, of rather a "rustic" character. What looks like a reversed *n* in the third line, may be part of an *m* (the first stroke being obliterated). We have only the commencement of the lines, the right hand part of the stone being broken off. It appears to commence as usual *D(iis) M(anibus)*. The material is white sandstone. The second is a fragment of red sandstone  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches high by 12 inches wide, and the inscription has been in larger letters. Personally I am doubtful as to what letters are in it. The upper portions are broken off but the members of the Association recognised them as

LEG-.

and part of the word *Legio*, the remainder of the word being broken off. They seem to me to be just as likely part of the other half of the word, *i.e.*, *GIO*. The bottom of the first letter has a curved or hooked form, the second is merely an upright stroke, and the third is of oval shape thus: *O*. The latter seems to have been taken as the lower part of a rustically formed *g*. These stones have no doubt been brought from the Roman station at Meols some three miles distant, and are the first that station has yielded. They could hardly have come from Chester, which as the crow flies is from sixteen to seventeen English miles distant.

In the last vol. (xi) of the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, pp. 336-7, Sir J. Maclean, F.S.A., describes a stone ploughed up about



1846, in a small enclosure on Nesley Farm, in the parish of Beverston (Gloucestershire), close to the boundary of the parish of Lasborough, where a Roman inscribed stone was discovered in the last century. The Nesley Farm stone was long lying in Lasborough churchyard, but was afterwards brought by the owner of the estate to Weston Birt, and thrown aside. It was subsequently rescued by the present rector of that parish, from a heap of rubbish, and placed in his own garden, where it now remains. The inscription which is very much worn, is :—

D       M  
M E T T I N  
A T I O N  
G E T A  
V I X I T  
A N N . X X X V  
H . P .

*i.e.*, *D(iis) M(anibus) Metti(us) Natione Geta Vixit Ann(os) xxxv, H(eres) P(osuit)*. “To the gods the shades—Met-tius by nation a Getan. He lived thirty-five years. (His) heir has placed (this).” The stone has a triangular head and the inscription is on a sunken panel about 20 inches by 12, moulded at the edges, and surrounded by a border 3 inches wide. The head is moulded in the same manner, and within the triangular panel is a figure in low relief, apparently of a rose or some similar ornament.

The *v* in the sixth line is outside of the moulding, there not being room for it within, and the last line *H. P.* is in larger letters than the others. We have, in this inscription, the first instance of a Getan recorded upon a Roman monument in Britain. The Gatea were a tribe who were neighbours both of the Thracians and Dacians. They inhabited portions of the modern Wallachia, Moldavia, and Bessarabia. Another stone was *seen* when this was originally discovered, but left in the ground. Efforts are to be made to disinter it, if still remaining.

At Colchester in June there was found a small cup, five inches high, of Castor ware, with the usual scroll ornaments in white “slip.” In letters three quarters of an inch high, are the words:—

V I N C O T E

“I conquer thee,” probably referring to the intoxicating effect of wine, for which the vessel would be used.

In the metropolis, a discovery has also to be recorded. During excavations for the new approaches to Billingsgate, there was found at the beginning of June, in Monument Yard, a small tessellated pavement, which from the account given to me by the contractors (Messrs. J. Mowlem & Co.) seems to have been Roman. They state that it "was at a depth of about 12 ft. below the surface. and in the immediate vicinity of a disused burial ground, It measured about 4 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in., and appeared to have formed a portion of a floor composed of a white ground with black letters. It had a border thus:— WW, and letters somewhat as follows:—

" UNANI  
NIIISTGNATVS  
IMNESSELSTRAT  
SEMDSID

"We were unable to get it out intact; it broke into very small pieces."

Unless this pavement be of a later period than the Roman, and all the circumstances of the discovery militate against such an idea, I would suggest as I have previously done,<sup>2</sup> that in the second line we have EGNATIVS, the T and I being ligulate and the third TESSEL. STRAT., whilst the four last letters may be the formula D.S.P.D: i.e. expanded, *de sua pecunia dedit*. But it is singular if *Stratum* is used instead of *Pavimentum* after *Tesselatum*. It is uncertain however if the letters are given correctly. Messrs. Mowlem & Co, only say they are "somewhat" like the above. Whether any lines have preceded the first is also unknown. There may be an erroneous reading of DISMANIBVS at the commencement or possibly . . . V.AN.I.M.II.L.S.EGNATIVS. The Rev. J. H. Abrahall suggests, that in the second line we may have ANTESIGNANVS. The destruction of this pavement is much to be deprecated. Had an order of the City Council been issued, that all antique remains found, should be instantly reported, the pavement could have been saved, and from its small size, easily removed to the Guildhall Museum, where the inscription would have given us a further item of knowledge concerning old *Londinium*.

In the before named third volume of the Stukeley-Gate correspondence, p. 328, there is a letter from F.

<sup>1</sup> See *Academy* August 13th and Sept. 3rd, 1887.

Drake, of York, dated June 1, 1737, concerning a piece of brick or tile turned up "this week" at our "brickhills." It is a piece of burnt clay about two feet long and near a foot wide, with two ledges running parallel on each side, but none at the ends, which makes me conjecture that it was designed with others for a drain or conveyance of water from some sepulchre. An engraving is given of the drawing of the tile thus:—

P	O	L	I	O				
C	O	L	E	G	I	O		
F	E	L	I	C	I	T	E	R

"The letters were made with the finger, when the clay was moist, and are about three inches in height."

The right hand end of the tile was broken off, but this has not, I think, interfered with the inscription which seems to be meant for POLIO COL(L)EGIO FELICIO (I)TER, and a free translation would be "Polio (wishes) happiness (or prosperity) to the college." In the *text* of the letter from Gale, the last letter but two of the inscription is given as something like the Greek Gamma laid on its side, but in the engraving it appears as I have rendered it above, *i.e.* T.

It was this inscription which was sent to me erroneously, and appeared in my list for 1878 (*Archæological Journal*, 1878, vol. xxxvi, p. 164) as POLIONIS FELICITER. Dr. Hübner appears to have had a similarly erroneous copy.

Polio, who wrote this inscription, probably belonged to a college or association of tile makers.

There are also a few inscriptions, long since discovered, and published, which have been omitted from Dr. Hubner's work. One is named in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August 1827, p. 113, by Sir R. C. Hoare, who, when describing the tessellated pavements found in a Roman villa, at Littleton, near Somerton, (in Somersetshire) says that one of them, 20 feet by 16, "was surrounded by an *à la Grecque* border, and in the centre only three letters remained visible," viz :—

F L A . . . .

This is no doubt the commencement of the *nomen* FLAVIVS, which occurs also in the pavement at Lydney.

In Longstaffe's "Richmondshire" a guide book, published in 1852, it is said (p. 42), of the portion of the wall

of *Cataractonium* (Catterick) laid bare a year or two previously, "one or two inscribed stones are built in. One reads—

M A R C . A A . . .

another—

. . . . I V S . "

I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. Hooppell for drawing my attention to this passage. He asks the question with regard to the first, whether Mr. Longstaffe has not misread the inscription, named in my list for 1881, *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxix, p. 361 which Dr. Hooppell reads as MALEM.

Two wall tiles, found at the villa at Woodchester by Mr. Lysons, had numerals traced on them, thus—

XXXXIIII and XXXXVI.

*Archæological Journal*, vol. xvii, p. 271.

There are one or two emendations of inscriptions, which I have previously given, to be added. In vol. xxxi of the *Journal* p. 352, I refer to the marble sarcophagus found at Clapton, and state that the last line read MARITIMVS. It is, however, preferable to give all that is traceable of the inscription, which is :—

D M . . . . .  
 . . . . . M S .  
 M A R I T I M I V S

Again in vol. xliii of the *Journal*, p. 288, I give an inscription on an altar found at Harrington in Cumberland. I find that the letters co are visible preceding PRAEF, so that the whole extant portion should read

. . . . . C O P R A E F .  
 C O H . I I . L I N G .

The second series of inscriptions found in the walls of Chester, thirteen in number, are for the present withheld from publication by wish of the Committee in charge of the investigation.