

CONTENTS.

- XIX. REMARKS BY DR ASHTON, FORMERLY MASTER OF JESUS COLLEGE, (I.) ON THE AGE OF A SYRIAC MS. OF THE PENTATEUCH, AND (II.) GLOUCESTER RIDLEY'S ACCOUNT OF A SYRIAC MS. OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. Communicated by G. E. CORRIE, D.D. Master of Jesus College 219
- XX. DOCUMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SCOTLAND IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE. Communicated by G. E. CORRIE, D.D. Master of Jesus College. 225
- XXI. ON AN UNPUBLISHED COIN OF CARAUSIUS, OBTAINED IN CAMBRIDGE: TOGETHER WITH TWO SIMILAR UNPUBLISHED COINS OF ALLECTUS. By CHURCHILL BABINGTON, B.D. Fellow of St John's College 235
- XXII. TWO LISTS OF BOOKS IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY. Communicated by HENRY BRADSHAW, M.A. F.S.A. 239
- XXIII. AN EARLY UNIVERSITY STATUTE CONCERNING HOSTELS. Communicated by HENRY BRADSHAW, M.A. F.S.A. 279
- XXIV. ON A SKULL OF BOS PRIMIGENIUS ASSOCIATED WITH FLINT IMPLEMENTS. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A. 285
- XXV. ON ROMAN INTERMENTS BY THE SIDE OF THE SO-CALLED VIA DEVANA NEAR CAMBRIDGE. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A. 289

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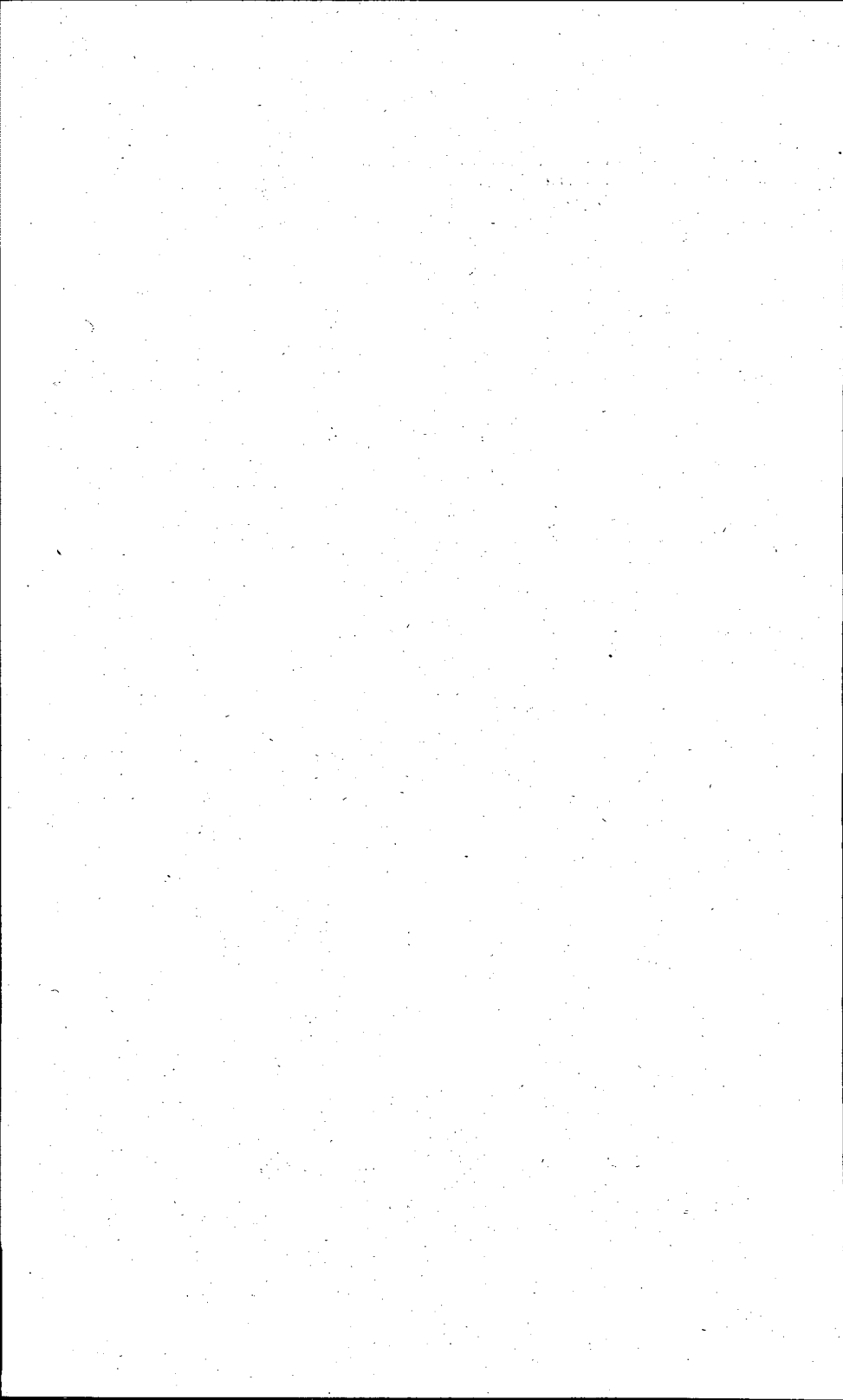
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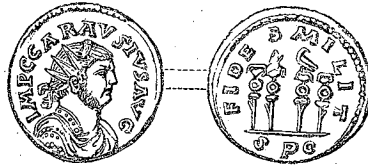
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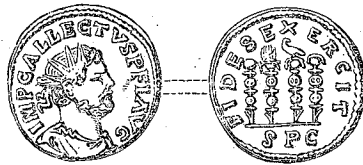
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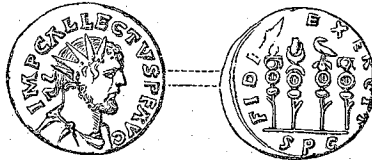




1. CARAUSIUS.



2. ALLECTUS.



3. ALLECTUS.

XXI. ON AN UNPUBLISHED COIN OF CARAUSIUS, OBTAINED IN CAMBRIDGE: TOGETHER WITH TWO SIMILAR UNPUBLISHED COINS OF ALLECTUS. BY CHURCHILL BABINGTON, B.D. FELLOW OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE.

[Read Nov. 17, 1862.]

THE coins of Carausius have long occupied the careful attention of English Numismatists. In the middle of the last century (1757—1759) Stukeley wrote an elaborate work upon them, which is still, in spite of its deficiencies and absurdities, of considerable value. He there figures 314 different coins in all metals; and enumerates all the types of the gold and silver coins that he could discover, some of which are not figured. The gold and silver amount to 86, of which 24 are not figured by Stukeley, some being contained in foreign collections. Since the time of Stukeley a good many others have been discovered, and very good figures of all the types which were accessible to the authors of the *Monumenta Historica Britannica* (1848) are to be found in plates v—xiv. comprising 338 coins of Carausius in all. Various additional types have likewise been described and figured by Mr Akerman, Mr C. Roach Smith, Mr Evans¹, and by others.

¹ Akerman, *Coins of the Romans relating to Britain* (London, 1844, ed. 2), where a descriptive catalogue of the coins of Carausius is given, amounting to 287, but without distinguishing slight varieties; C. Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, and *Numismatic Chronicle*, (passim); J. Evans in *Num. Chron.* (passim), where are also notices of coins of Carausius by Mr Bergne, Mr Jones, and Mr King.

Neither is it wonderful that English antiquarians should have been partial to the study of the coins of this usurper, who held the supreme command in this island from A. D. 287—293, since his history is in great measure to be decyphered thereby. The whole of his money is considered by M. Cohen¹, a French writer, to have been struck in England, as well as the money of his lieutenant, murderer, and successor, Allectus, who reigned in Britain from A. D. 294—297. But Mr Roach Smith has shewn by engravings of a quantity found in France such a marked distinction, as to lead him to consider that early in the usurpation of Carausius his coins were struck in Gaul². Such coins are palpably of different fabric to the general coinage, which, of course, we may safely refer to the British mint. Thus England is on all accounts the natural place in which the study of the coins of these rebel emperors should flourish.

It is, therefore, a pleasant task to lay before the Society an unpublished coin of Carausius, obtained from an intelligent youth in Cambridge in September last, and probably found in the neighbourhood; and also to give descriptions of two coins of his successor, likewise unpublished, which have the same type as the new Carausius, for impressions of which I am indebted to Mr Evans and to Mr Roach Smith.

CARAUSIUS.

1. IMP. C. CARAVSIVS AVG. Radiated bust of Carausius to the right in the toga, beneath which armour appears to be worn.

R. FIDES MILIT. Four military standards, those on the outside naked at the top; on the second a hand (?), on the

¹ *Méd. Impér.* T. v. pp. 502, 540 (Paris, 1861). A considerable number however of coins of Carausius, including some novelties, were found at Rouen in 1846. C. Roach Smith, *Coll. Ant.* Vol. v. p. 242 (1861).

² *Coll. Ant.* Vol. v. Pl. xxvii.

third an eagle with the head turned to the right. In the exergue S. P. C.—Third brass¹; in my possession².

ALLECTUS.

2. IMP. C. ALLECTVS P. F. I. AVG. Radiated bust of Allectus to the right in the toga.

R. FIDES EXERCIT. Four military standards, the two outside naked at the top, a hand on the second, a bird on the third as before: in the exergue S. P. C.—Third brass; in possession of Mr Roach Smith. This same I for *Invictus* occurs also occasionally on the coins of Carausius.

3. IMP. C. ALLECTVS P. F. AVG. Bust as before.

R. Exactly as before, but from a different die.—Third brass; in possession of Mr Evans. Differing from the preceding only by the omission of I on the obverse.

The types of the reverses of all the three coins are identical, and also the exergual letters, which probably denote the place of mintage, whatever that may be³. The legend of both the coins of Allectus is EXERCIT. (*exercitus*) instead of MILIT. (*militum*).

There are indeed coins of Carausius which have the same legend, FIDES MILIT. or MILITVM⁴, where a woman holds

¹ A learned friend suggests that the metal is billon, but I see no sufficient reason for so thinking.

² Mr C. R. Smith observes in a letter (Oct. 25, 1862): "I perceive by my notes that in 1852 Mr Webster had a coin similar to yours. Probably it may be the same." From an impression Mr Roach Smith has since ascertained that it is not the same coin as that in my possession, though very similar, and having the hand on the second standard *distinct*.

³ Mr Akerman (*u. s.* p. 121) thinks that C stands for Clausentum, i. e. Bittern, near Southampton; but Camulodunum, i. e. Colchester, may also be suggested.

⁴ *Mon. Hist. Brit.* pl. vii. figs. 13, 14. Mr Roach Smith has been good enough to call my attention to the fact that Tanini in his *Supplement* to

two military standards; and there are others which have for type four military standards, but with a different legend COHORT. PRAET¹. A coin in Mr Roach Smith's collection, apparently unpublished, exhibits a winged (?) female, seated, and behind her a standard. The legend, unfortunately, is obscure, the coin being in an indifferent state of preservation.

We have a great many coins of emperors of the third century on which the legend FIDES MILITVM occurs: on most of them the type is one or more standards, frequently held by a woman. The idea is the same in all, though expressed with many minute variations of symbolism: viz. the allegiance of the army, sworn to the Emperor or the Fortune of the Emperor, upon the standards. "Iis enim adhibitis," says Rasche, "sacramento et militari jurejurando... milites fidem suam obligabant." (*Lex. Rei Num.* Vol. II. p. 1026.) These types are very appropriate, as Mr Akerman² justly remarks, to Carausius, (and also to Allectus,) who owed everything to his military partisans.

Banduri's *Numism. Imp. Rom.* describes two in silver and one in third brass, as follows:

1. FIDES MILIT. Woman, to the right, between two military standards. \mathcal{R} .

2. FIDEM MILITVM NN. Woman, to the right; in her right-hand a pair of scales, in the left a cornucopia. \mathcal{R} .

Banduri also (Vol. II. p. 117) gives these; and the latter is figured by G n brier, who (p. 40) explains FIDEM as signifying that Carausius had rewarded the fidelity of his soldiers. The accusative is not uncommon on Roman coins. (See also *Mon. Hist. Brit.* pl. v. f. 16.)

3. FIDEM MILITVM. A woman between standards. Third brass. Vienna Cabinet.

Banduri, also, has one in third brass:

FIDES MILIT. As above. (This last is exactly the same as the coin figured in *Mon. Hist. Brit.* pl. VII. f. 14, except that it has AVG. and not AV. on the legend of the obverse.)

¹ Id. pl. vi. figs. 12, 13, and C. Roach Smith, *Coll. Ant.* Vol. v. p. 184. H bler, *Rec. Rom. Hist. on Coins*, Vol. II. p. 807.

² u. s. p. 130.