

but a great eruption of the sea carried away the harbour and greatly damaged the town. The making of a harbour at Silloth recently had changed the sweep of the sea, which had exposed a quantity of boulder stones upon the shore, and this altar had been found. The conclusion he drew from it was that the Romans had had a little fortress at Skinburness. The altar bore the inscription "Matribus Parcis." Dr. Bruce also described a Roman coin of which there was an illustration upon the sheet in the hands of the members. Those Roman coins, he remarked, were wonderful productions, and it was important to have contemporary portraits of the rulers of the earth in those days. They could be perfectly certain as to their accurateness. Unlike the portraits of the Queen upon our coins—which were always the same—we frequently found their growth from youth to age. Nero, he had found on many of the coins, as a chubby-cheeked innocent-looking youth, and at last as a bloated sensualist. Commenting upon the names found upon some of the altars, Dr. Bruce said they showed that Spaniards, people from Languedoc or elsewhere, had been among us, and they proved how vigorous were the efforts made by the Romans to subdue England and to keep it in their possession. He had no doubt that the discipline which the people of this country underwent in those times had been of the greatest service in forming the English character.

ART. V.—*Lanercost, a Roman Station.* By the Rev. J. Maughan, Rector of Bewcastle.

Read at Penrith, July 11th, 1867.

IN entering upon a discussion of this question I would observe that in the "Notitia Imperii" we find a list of twenty-three stations, which is headed "Item per lineam valli." This list gives us the name by which each of the stations was designated at the time when the book was written, and it also informs us by what body of soldiers each of the stations was guarded at that time. From the expression "*per lineam valli*;" i.e. "along the line of the wall," we may assume that these stations were either connected with the Roman Wall, or in its immediate vicinity. The words certainly appear to imply this much, and to bear this definite application. In
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their strict construction they admit of no allusion or reference to stations at a considerable distance from the wall.

Eleven of these twenty-three stations are in Northumberland. Nine of them are connected with the wall, and the other two at a short distance from it. The site of each of these eleven stations has been accurately ascertained. They follow each other in a regular successive order, corresponding with the list of the "Notitia." Their ancient designation not only agrees with the fragmental evidences of etymology, but it has been confirmed by the discovery of inscribed stones, at the several stations, bearing the names of the cohort given in the "Notitia."

Finding, therefore, eleven of these stations following each other in the order assigned to them by the author of the "Notitia," and finding the last of these stations on the confines of Northumberland, the inference appears obvious that we must look for the remaining twelve stations in Cumberland, and in a position also corresponding with the order assigned to each of them in the "Notitia." Analogy leads us to this inference, and it is supported by the evidence which may be derived from the vestiges of the old British language, which still leaves traces of its existence in the names of the particular localities in which the stations have been placed. The subject of this inquiry has long occupied my thoughts, and often been mentioned to others. It is very important, and it may be, therefore, not uninteresting to take a brief and calm review of the matter.

That Amboglanna, the twelfth station in the list, is the first in Cumberland, and at Burdoswald, can admit of no dispute. This is proved by its name, and it has been amply confirmed by a large number of inscribed stones, bearing the name of the first cohort of the Dacians, which the Notitia placed at Amboglanna. This, however, is the last station on the line of the wall whose local name has been supported by the authority of an inscribed stone. In tracing the sites, therefore, of the remaining stations, we are forced to trust to etymology, and other circumstances, to aid us in the enquiry, and to remove the difficulties by which the question is surrounded. The question is—whether Lanercost was a Roman Station;—and, if so, whether it was the station called Petriana?

The Notitia states that Petriana was the station next to Amboglanna, and that a Prefect of the Ala Petriana was then in garrison there. No inscribed stone has been found at

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Lanercost, bearing the name of this body of soldiers. A stone, with this Ala inscribed, has recently been found at Carlisle; but Carlisle is evidently too far from Burdoswald, and we find the sites of too many stations intervening. Carlisle is unquestionably the ancient Luguwallum, and could not be Petriana. Camden mentions a fragment of an old inscription found at Plumpton, also recording the name of this Ala, and on that account he places Petriana at Old Perith, or Plumpton. This camp, however, is at least fourteen miles south of the wall, and therefore cannot be admitted as one of the stations "per lineam valli." Besides, Plumpton is now ascertained to have been the Voreda of the second Iter of the Itinerary of Antonine. Horsley places Petriana at Cambeck-fort, or Castlesteads, a distance of about seven miles from Burdoswald. This far exceeds the usual distance between the stations, and consequently does not accord with what appears to have been the usual plan of the engineer of the great barrier, a plan from which we cannot conceive that he would deviate in one of the most exposed parts of the wall. I venture to suggest, therefore, that there may have been an intervening station between Burdoswald and Cambeck-fort; and that the site of the intervening station was at Lanercost. Cambeck-fort has no better claim to the name of Petriana than Lanercost, for a Petriana stone has not yet turned up at either place.

In the absence of inscribed stones, I may therefore be allowed to observe that etymology is sometimes a great clearer up of historical difficulties, and although its teachings may sometimes be doubtful, and justly questionable, and may not in the present instance lead us to a conclusion entirely to our satisfaction, it may yet help us to a better understanding of our position. Local names generally arise from one common principle, viz., some quality or circumstance of the place. The word Petriana may have been in existence hundreds of years before the Roman era. It would be thus formed from the old British or Celtic words—PE, an enclosure—and TRE, a town, fort, or castle—ANA, on the river; *i.e.* "the enclosed fortress near the river." Petriana would therefore be the name of one of the earliest settlements of the first inhabitants of the island; a British town, if we may so call one of those collections of huts, occupying a cleared-out spot in the midst of the woods, which were the only towns our island had to boast of when in the possession of its first proprietors. According to Cæsar, Strabo, &c., these British towns were only woods fortified with a ditch, and a rampart strengthened with trees.

trees. The word "castra" was added only to those towns which were converted into a camp or station. Thus the name implies that it had been a British fortified town before it was occupied by the Romans, and that the name was retained as having a strong association with the natural position of the place. The modern name "Lanercost," partly also confirms this conjecture that it was the site of a Roman station. The old British word LLAN, properly signifies a yard, or small enclosure. Camden states that it also denotes "a church, or church town," because, probably, such enclosures might be places of worship in the times of heathenism, or upon the first planting of Christianity, when churches were scarce. ER, signified "at" or "near;" and COST may be a corruption of the word "castra," a camp or station. Hence we may presume that it derived its present name from its local position, *i.e.* "the church-town at, or over the station," and this name may have been appropriately assigned to it before the present monastery was founded. In Denton's MS. History of Cumberland, it is thus spoken of—"Lanercost ad costeram vallis." The word "costeram" bears a strong resemblance to the word "castra," and in an old Runic inscription found near Bewcastle we have the word LLANERKASTA.

But besides the argument from etymology, there is another point to which I wish now to draw special attention. The Priory, with all the conventual buildings, has evidently been erected with Roman stones. These, it has been erroneously stated, were brought from the Roman Wall. We find considerable remains of the wall for some distance, opposite to Lanercost, and we find that it has unquestionably been constructed with stones brought from the carboniferous stratification which crops out in all quarters along the ridge called the Banks, and the numerous quarry holes along its line tend to prove this fact most satisfactorily. The whole of the buildings and walls at Lanercost, however, are most decidedly of the new red sandstone system, which is found in abundance on the south side of the river, and they most probably have been brought from the banks of the small rivulet called the Quarry Beck, where we find many traces of large excavations. Now, these facts lead us to the inference that there is at least a possibility that the whole of the monastical structures of the twelfth century have been reared from stones taken from a former series of buildings, *i.e.*, from the ruins of a Roman station. The stones show that they have once undergone the manipulation of the Roman masons; and,
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if not used at Lanercost, where else, it may be asked, could they be used?

In the crypt is a collection of Roman altars, and other fragments of stones, such as are usually found in the sites of stations, but it is uncertain whence they came, and where they were found. Some are said to have been found at Bankshead, and others at Burdoswald. My earliest recollection of the crypt is that of a place nearly filled with rubbish. It was cleared out by a person named Isaac Elliot, a game-keeper to Lord Carlisle, and these stones were placed there by him. Being resident in a part of the Priory, he spent most of his spare time in digging about the old buildings, expecting to find hidden treasures. He certainly formed the collection, and claimed it as his own while he lived. But, besides these crypt-stones, there are others built into the walls of the monastic buildings, which tell a tale of their own. There is an inscribed altar in the clerestory, or open gallery, which runs round the upper part of the edifice, in the south-east corner of the choir. It forms a cover for the arch between the pillar and the main wall. It is near the summit of the outer wall of the church, and must have been placed there when the Priory was first built, in the twelfth century, and a better place could not have been selected for its preservation. It has evidently been an altar, and has been broken down by the masons into a segment of a circle, so as to form a support or centre for the arch above it. It is interesting to find it now in as perfect a state as it was when mutilated by the Mediæval masons, and it is a curious link between the earlier ages of heathenism and the present age of christianity. It may be read thus.—“To Jupiter, the best, the greatest, the first cohort of the Dacians, styled *Ælia*, over which is Julius Saturninus, a tribune.” Now, we may fairly assume that this stone was placed here for the purpose of preservation, and that it was considered at that period, as a stone belonging to the station.

In the south-east corner of the east wall of the crypt, I found, a few years ago, a small rude centurial stone, which I believe not to have been noticed before. It may be read thus :—“*Centuria cohortis decimæ ponendum fecit,*”—“A century of the tenth cohort caused this to be placed.”

The Rev. T. Calvert, Rector of Stapleton, discovered, about the same time, another small centurial stone, all covered with ivy, in the east wall of the building, which is supposed to have been the Refectory, in the Vicar's garden. The inscription
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may be read thus :—"Centuria Cassii Prisci,"—"The century of Cassius Priscus." The centurial mark is peculiar, but very distinct.

In digging for a foundation, in the farm-yard, in 1860, another centurial stone was found buried in a heap of rubbish. It may also be read :—"Centuria Caii Ennii Prisci,"—"The century of Caius Ennius Priscus." It is said that a silver coin of the Emperor Trajan was found at the same time. These centurial stones are generally supposed to have been placed by the soldiers, as records of the work performed by them, and their position at Lanercost raises a presumption that this must have been a Roman station.

In excavating for a cellar in the new farm house, in the year 1840, a large stone trough was found a few feet below the surface. It is similar to, but much larger than that which was found at Halton Chesters, and to which a Roman origin has been assigned. I may suggest that it has been one of those baths which formed so prominent a part in the Roman domestic institutions, and which we Northerners, the unwashed part of humanity, cannot duly appreciate. Its position so far below the surface assigns to it a very early date—a date long anterior to its Norman occupation.

The following inscription was discovered by me in 1859, on a rock in the Banksburn ravine, about half a mile from Lanercost. This ravine is a series of rocks, freestone and limestone, from one end to the other, and it probably yielded an immense quantity of both kinds of stone to the quarrymen, in the time of the Romans. The inscription is a record of the presence of a decurion, *i.e.* a commander of ten men, whose duty was perhaps to direct and protect the workmen during their operations. It may be read thus :—"Junius Brutus Decurio Alæ Petrianæ,"—"Junius Brutus, a Decurion of the Ala, styled Petriana." It is valuable as a confirmation of the statement made in the Notitia that the Ala Petriana garrisoned the thirteenth station on the wall; and, although there is no date, we may assume from the ligature EC that it belonged to the latter part of the second century, or to a later period.

It also raises a presumption in favour of Lanercost being the Roman station Petriana, but it is not decisive, for this is the last place from which limestone could be procured for building the wall westwards, and it is probable that the lime for the station at Cambeck-fort may have been procured here, so that this decurio may have belonged to that station.

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Admitting, however, that these inscriptions and stones are not satisfactory testimonials, there are other reasons for supposing Lanercost to have been the site of a station. The enclosure called the Green, on the N. W. side of the Priory, still apparently exhibits traces of the *viæ*, or streets of a Roman city. The wall enclosing the Green on the east, west, and north sides, appears to have been placed on the foundations of the curtain or outer wall of the station, having gates near each of the ancient gateways. The entrance to the monastic buildings has been through an arch erected a little to the west of the western gateway. From this arch, when the grass is short, we may readily discern something like a line of street, (the *via principalis*,) running up to the Church-yard gate. The street called the *via quintana* appears also to be distinctly traceable. Between these two streets the vestiges of the foundations of several oblong or rectangular buildings are traceable, corresponding with the usual plan of Roman castrametation. The general outline of these foundations is well developed on the north side of the supposed *via principalis*, but on the south side they are effaced by modern erections. The slightest digging, however, in the gardens, shows that there is no lack of foundations there. On the south side of the Church-yard gate, the walls of the guardhouse of the eastern gateway appear still *in situ*. Within my recollection a deep trench ran along the north side of the green, between the wall and the road, which was probably the north fosse of the station. In winter it was full of water, and often covered with ice. It has been gradually filled up with weeds, and other materials from the adjoining fields, and the road has been now made much wider. The outer wall of the station passed through the transepts of the Priory, and had its south east angle near the row of tall ash trees. The south fosse was on the north side of the trees, and in winter was full of water, being about four feet deep. It was called the fish-pond, having probably been appropriated to that use by the monks. It was filled up in the year 1840, with the *debris* of the new farm-buildings.

The situation of Lanercost is in the vale of the Irthing, a place of great beauty, and capable of affording a grateful shelter to the Roman soldier. It is like that of Cilurnum, in the vale of the Tyne. It is about half-a-mile south of the wall and the vallum, and in this respect is similar to Vindolana, in Northumberland, which is about a mile south of the wall. But there is a more remarkable similarity between these two stations,

stations, and one which must have originated with the builder of the wall, and could not have occurred without a design. Opposite to Lanercost are the traces of an entrenchment, or ancient encampment, adjoining to and running parallel with the wall, for a furlong and a half, and it is to be noted that near Milking Gap, and opposite to Vindolana, are similar vestiges of a place of defence in support of the wall. We may assume, therefore, that each of these must have been an auxiliary encampment, or post of occupation for the convenience and protection of the soldiers, in consequence of the distance between the station and the wall.

Like Cilurnum, Lanercost also possesses the foundations and part of the piers of a very old bridge, which we may safely assume to be Roman, the mortar being the same as that used in the wall, and all other Roman structures. The ancient road by Lanercost to Brampton passed along this bridge, and thence through Naworth Parks. On the north side of the bridge, the road passed through the field called the Paddock, where its trail is easily seen when the field is ploughed. It then passed along the east side of the Nursery, where its ridge is considerably elevated, and thence through the wood by a cutting, aiming for the entrenchment adjoining the wall.

Thus it appears that the evidence from etymology, analogy, the vestiges of inscribed stones, and the locality, are singly and separately in favour of the presumption that Lanercost was once the site of a Roman station. The combination of these evidences draws us forcibly to the inference that it was originally a British town, called *Petriana*, and that it was seized by the Roman troops, (perhaps under Agricola, who converted it into a fort, and made the military way,) but afterwards held by a mural garrison, and then placed in the list of stations "*per lineam valli.*"