ART. XV.—*Supposed Roman Stations at Kirksteads, Burgh-upon-Sands and Boustead Hill.* By the Rev. J. Maughan, Rector of Bewcastle.

Read at Penrith, September 23rd, 1868.

IN this paper I shall offer for consideration a few suggestions as to the site of the three stations called Glannibanta, Alona or Alionis, and Brementuracum, with a view of finding them on, or near the line of the Wall, so as to harmonise with the position assigned to them in the Notitia.

Camden makes no attempt to locate Glannibanta, unless he imagines it to be the same with Glanoventa, which he places on the Wentsbeck, in Norfolk, but it is evident that a station so far distant cannot be a station *per lineam valli*. He assigns Alionis to Whitley Castle, near Alston, and Brementuracum to Brampton. Horsley places Glannibanta at Lanchester, near Durham, and Brementuracum at Plumpton. These positions are too remote from the Barrier, and also out of the regular order of successions of the stations, as laid down in the list of the Notitia. Demurring, therefore, to each of these allocations, I would observe that etymology points to Kirksteads. near Kirkandrews, as the Glannibanta, to Burgh-upon-Sands as the Alona, and to Boustead Hill as the Brementuracum of the Notitia.

GLANNIBANTA. —KIRKSTEADS.

In the old British language "glean," or "glan," means a *glen, vale,* or *plain*; and "ban" signifies an *eminence* or *height*. Glannibanta would, therefore, mean "the station on the height in the plain;" and this name accords with the position; for although Kirksteads is not on high ground, yet it is on a sufficiently commanding eminence, with a good look out on all sides. "Banta" may also be a corruption of "band" — *a boundary* — *i.e.*, "the station at the boundary or extremity of the plain;" and in the derivation of this name the features of the locality coincide with the teachings of etymology. The latter part of the word Kirksteads leads also to the inference that the remains found here are the silent records of the Roman age, for "steads" was a common appellation given to the castella of the Romans, and is a word of similar

similar import to the word "casters," or "chesters." The word Kirksteads implies that a church had been built at the steads, or station. The hypothesis that Kirksteads is the correct allocation of Glannibanta is further confirmed by the fact that the latter portion of the word Glannibanta still flits in misty memory, and gives a name to a large portion of the adjacent district. From Kirksteads the country sweeps away to the south-west for about six miles, in a series of low and gently rising ridges and undulations. A portion of it was formerly called Banton, which is evidently a tradition of Banta. It now forms the parish of Kirkbampton, and, in the dialect of the district, is still called "Kirkbanton." Here, then, in the formation of these names, we find that etymology impresses her characteristic stamp, and, without very far outrunning the bounds of discretion, we may venture to assume that it is almost impossible to shake the evidence which in this case she so lucidly and forcibly produces.

The question, however, forces itself upon us whether Kirksteads was a Roman station. Now, although the plough, the mason, and the quarryman have rendered it difficult to give a perfectly satisfactory answer to this question, yet we may assume that there can be very little doubt about it. The distance from Stanwix would be about four miles, and hence we have a probability that a garrison might be required here to guard against the Scots, who were always ready for a spice of danger and adventure, if connected with a free-booting enterprize, more especially as the river Eden is fordable in several places near it. Besides this—vestiges of a station, or of something more than a temporary camp, though scant and rusty, are still quite visible, and are in the very prime of that condition which most delights the antiquary. Numerous fragments of red freestone, with which the station has been built, are scattered in great abundance on the ground and in the three adjacent fields, denoting its position accurately enough to show that the fort has been about one hundred yards in length, and sixty yards in breadth, thus covering less than two acres of ground, and being probably somewhere about the same size as the stations at Cambeck fort, Brampton, Watchcross, and Stanwix, and probably twice as large as the station at Drumburgh. It is curious to observe what a strange sense of economy in space haunted these old builders. The north and east sides of the camp are now slightly elevated, and the general contour of the ground

ground shows that the north-east corner at least has been rounded. Many valuable antiquarian remains have been found here: such as pieces of glass, bricks, tufa, and pottery, both yellow and Samian. Some of the fragments of pottery evince a progress in art equalling at least, if not surpassing, Queen Mary's much reverenced collection of mugs and pipkins. In a small cattle shed, erected on the site, are three walling stones, evidently Roman, and in a field, on the west side, a large number of Roman coins have been found, within the last few years. In the walls of a house at Kirkandrews are many fragments of altars, as well as sculptured and inscribed stones, which were turned up by the plough at various times at Kirksteads, and thus utilized and preserved by the late Mr. Norman. In his gardens are portions of a millstone, of a wheel of Nemesis, of a human figure, of a head of a statue, with various other fragments found at Kirkandrews. Here also is a remarkably fine specimen of a Roman altar, brought from Kirksteads in 1803, with the following inscription:—*Lucius Junius Victorinus et Caius Ælianus legati Augustales Legionis VI., victricis piæ fidelis, ob res trans vallum prospere, gestas, i.e.*, "Lucius Junius Victorinus and Caius Ælianus, Augustan Legates of the 6th Legion (styled) victorious, pious, faithful (dedicate this altar) on account of transactions prosperously achieved beyond the wall." This is an important altar, for it records the presence of the sixth legion in this district, and this and the altar found at Old Wall, in 1813, are the only stones which mention the wall, and both call it a vallum. These remains now form a small choice museum of great archæological importance, and lead us pardonably to assume that at Kirksteads once stood (as usual) the squeezed-up, stifling, little streets of a Roman city.

Kirksteads is about a mile south of the wall and vallum. It has no entrenchment opposite to it, in immediate connection with the wall, but there are two fine camps on Grinsdale common, between it and the wall, and these might effect the same object as the entrenchments opposite to Vindolana, Lanercost, Watchcross, and Linstock.

Although Kirksteads has no old crumbling castle, and no rich fringe of verdant time-tinted sward covering its ancient ramparts, yet it is in the heart of that classic ground which abounds in immortal reminiscences,—the bright historical panorama of Edenside.

ALONA

ALONA—BURGH-UPON-SANDS.

This appellation is probably derived from the old British word "lona"—a marshy plain; a legible record even now adapted to the general appearance and disposition of the ground. To the north-west of the station is a tract of land called Burgh marsh, capable of summering about 800 cattle, and on the east side of the station is another small marsh. The inclosed lands around are in easy swells, but the meadows are swampy, and were undoubtedly of a marshy character before the country was brought into cultivation. Thus in the language of the ancient inhabitants, the station might properly be designated "Alona," *i.e.*, "the camp on the marshy plain." The place is now called Burgh-upon-Sands, *i.e.*, "the town on the Sands," in reference to its position on the sandy marsh, which occupied the district, at the time when this name was assigned to it. Alana, one of the six towns of the Damnii—now supposed to be Camelon, near Falkirk—was probably a name of a similar derivation.

Burgh has long been regarded as the site of a Roman station. It is a long scattered village, with a church near the centre, which covers and almost effaces all vestiges of the station, so that there are scarcely any traces left to mark the former existence of man here, and no certain landmarks to recall the vitality of the Roman rule. By the course of the wall it is about three miles from Kirksteads, and nearly six miles from Stanwix, and garrison would probably be required here to guard the passage of the river at Sandsfield, and the eastern portions of Burgh marsh.

Inscribed stones have been found at Burgh. In 1858 a stone was found in a railway cutting, which may record the presence of the Dacians in this district. It bore the following inscription

IVLOFI TINV FSODAC

It was in the possession of Mr. John Norman, of Burgh. No stone, however, has been found here recording the presence of the third cohort of the Nervii, which the Notitia places at Alionis. A stone was found at Netherby with the name of the Nervii—"cohors prima Nervana" and Camden mentions a stone at Whitley Castle, near Alston, which bears the name of the third cohort of the Nervii, but Netherby and Whitley Castle are each too far from the wall, and even if Whitley Castle could be regarded as a station upon the Barrier, it ought

ought have been placed before Magna Amboglanna. It has been supposed that the Nervii were so called in honour of the Emperor. This, however, is doubtful, for they are mentioned in Cæsar and Lucan, before the time of Nerva. Appian says that they were descended from the Cumbrians and Teutones.

BREMENTURACUM.—BOUSTEAD HILL.

Camden, from the resemblance of the names, supposed this to be Brampton. It has also been thought to be indentical with Bremetonacum of the tenth Iter of Antoninus, and has been assigned to Ribchester, near Preston, which is a great stretch from the *Linea Valli*. Jurem Surita, a Spaniard, in his notes upon Antoninus, supposes that Bremetonacum is a distant place from Brementuracum.

In tracing out the etymology of this word we are hampered with too many etymons. The derivation, however, which I prefer in the old Celtic language, is this—"Bre" (Irish, "breighe") is a corruption of "bria" or "briga;" a breast-work or a fortified town—"men" for "main," a stone; "tu," a coast or border—and "rac," a rack, rut, or creek. Brementuracum would therefore signify "the stone-built fort on the creeky coast." This derivation accords accurately with the position of Boustead Hill, on the edge of Burgh Marsh, which abounds with creeks or swatches, *i.e.*, long channels washed out in the sands by the tides, often called the Lakes of the Solway.

The Notitia places a "cuneus armaturarum," *i.e.*, a company of light-armed infantry at Brementuracum, and Boustead Hill would be a suitable place for such a body of soldiers. No stone, however, has been found here, or elsewhere, recording the presence of such troops, and it is not easy to determine the characteristics of these "armaturæ." According to Vegetius, they seem to have been younger soldiers lightly armed, and according to Marcellinus, they were a sort of body-guardsmen or light infantry connected with a legion. Bocking suggests that these mentioned in the Notitia were a detachment of the sixth Legion, and it is remarkable that the altar found at Kirksteads shows that the sixth Legion was stationed in this district.

Boustead Hill is about half way between the stations at Burgh and Drumburgh, and about two-and-a-quarter miles from each. If we adopt the theory that Agricola seized upon the

the British towns, converted them into camps or stations for the army, and placed garrisons in them, we can find no objection to this propinquity of three camps, for Tacitus tells us (Agric. Vit. c. 17) that Cumberland was very populous before it was occupied by the Romans, and hence some of its towns would necessarily be near each other. Besides, the proximity of these towns would only show that the Romans were determined at all hazards to maintain the supremacy which they had acquired in this part of Britain. We may also presume that it would be necessary to guard the marsh with more than the ordinary chain of castella against the incursions of the Irish-Scots—the red Indians of cruelty and treachery, who cared for nothing but brute-force. Hence, we have strong reasons for supposing that a station may have been placed here so close to Burgh and Drumburgh. Horsley and others have expressed an opinion that the wall did not cross the Marsh, but skirted along its southern margin, out of tide mark. The sea on this, as well as on the opposite coast of Scotland, has undoubtedly receded from its former coast, and a green sward now appears where the tides formerly flowed over a barren surface of sand, on which we cannot imagine that the Wall would be made. It must, therefore, have passed close to Boustead Hill, the locality of which corresponds so closely with the etymons of the word Brementuracum. The modern name, "Boustead," also appears to refer to a stead or station in the bow or bend of the Marsh. In "the Watches of the west Marshes" it is called "Burstead," *i.e.*, "the city on the stead or station." Large quantities of stone have been found here, one of them a lettered stone, but broken up by the workmen. If my conjecture, therefore, be correct, that Bowstead is the Brementuracum of the Notitia, it is evident that the fort was placed at the west end of the village, and that it is now nearly covered with an orchard and garden. The buildings at the rear of Bowstead Hill House cover the northern rampart and fosse; the west fosse is on the west side of the garden and orchard, and is now occupied by several tall trees. The corner at the south-west of the camp has been round, as was usual with the Romans in their castrametation. The cart-road covers the south, and probably the east sides of the station. These outlines of the camp would cover nearly two acres of ground. The site of this station is indistinct, but so is that of many others. Hutton, and Gordon the Scottish antiquary, both passed through Hunnum or Halton Chesters, without recognising it. The

little cloud has gathered and burst over all these ancient cities, and they have given place to the modern usurper, even, perhaps, as in days long passed they usurped on their own account. Although we may take it for granted that the Romans took possession of the cities of the Celts, and converted them into stations for themselves, yet it has never been proved that these Celts were the original inhabitants.

ART. XVI.—*On the Vestiges of Celtic Occupation near Ullswater, and on the Discovery of Buried Stone Circles by Eamont Side.* By Michael W. Taylor, M.D., Penrith.

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THAT the territory around the embouchure of Ullswater, may have been a favourite settlement of the earlier inhabitants of Britain, is a conjecture reasonably supported, by a consideration of the natural advantages possessed by the locality, and the presence of those attractions so valued by savage races, which the physical cosmography and products of the country afforded.

The verdant vale of the upper Eamont, must have possessed rich and valuable grazing for the herds and flocks of a pastoral people; the mountain ranges of the lake country, of which this position is the threshold, would have defended their encampments, (as with an impassable barrier for miles,) from surprise from the southern half of the compass, and left them only the open country on their northern frontier to guard; whilst the rugged fells, forests, and dales, impenetrable to aggressive foes, would have afforded a refuge in time of peril, and in times of peace, happy hunting grounds for tribes whose subsistence depended much on the spoils of the chase. The stag and the roe deer, and, it might be, the elk and the buffalo, ranged at large over leagues and leagues of forest and fern around Martindale, and Hartsop, and Gowbarrow. The wild boar haunted the sides of *Boardale*, and found a lair amid the thickets of *Grisedale*, and *Swindale*, and *Stybarrow;* whilst the brake and the pine woods sheltered the bustard, the capercailzie, and bittern, and many species of winged game now extinct, or nearly so. The bosom of the