

ART. XV.—*On certain objects of metal recently found in Carlisle.* BY J. A. CORY, ESQ.

*Read at Gilsland, June 21st, 1877.*

I have been requested to say a few words this evening about some specimens of Roman metal work lately found in Carlisle, which I think are worthy of attention, and by the kind permission of their owners, I am enabled to lay them before you. The first, which belongs to Mr. Wheatley, was found in the Eden, near Carlisle; it is the bust of a young woman, (maybe a goddess, for they are much alike I believe); it is cut off exactly like a modern doll's head, but it has been rebated as though the rest of the body, or a plate had been attached to it; there is also a projection with a rivet above as if something else had been fixed to it, as undoubtedly there has been, for in its present state it would be useless as a box, which it evidently was intended for, as on the top of the head are the remains of a hinge by which a lid was formerly attached; on each side of the head is a loop; by passing a pin through the loops the lid would be securely fastened, or through these loops chains might have been passed. It is an excellent specimen of bronze casting, the face is pleasing in expression and well modelled, the drapery is buttoned with a fibula over the left shoulder, while the right bosom is left bare, the hair is cut straight across the forehead in a fashion which prevailed not long ago with young ladies, while the back hair is left rather wild. As a work of art it is evidently too good for a later date than the time of Caracalla 217, and I should be inclined to place the time of its execution about the middle of the second century, in the time of Antoninus or Marcus Aurelius; its size is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches high by  $3\frac{5}{8}$  wide.

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The three small articles of jewellery have been lent by Mr. Fisher, of Bank Street, they were found in the recent excavations in Bank Street, two of them are brooches, one is of bronze, the other appears to be of much debased gold; the bronze one has lost the spring, which in the other still remains. The method of fastening them is the same as that adopted in the now called safety pins. The other ornament appears to have been a portion of a clasp, but I am quite open to receive any other opinion as to its former use. They are all of late Roman date; a coin of Constantine was found not many yards from them. Another very interesting object, and one, as far as I know, quite unique, has been kindly lent me by Mr. Court: it was found amongst the top of the piles of the stockade in Bank Street, of which Mr. Ferguson has given us a description. On one side is a griffin with wings extended, its paws standing out, its ears very much like bats' ears erect, and its mane or crest running up and forming the midrib of an acanthus leaf. On the back, for it is wrought on both sides, is a dolphin, whose curved body forms a loop through which the fore finger may be thrust and the object carried about; above this dolphin's tail is a socket in which something is intended to be held; at the bottom is a square dowel for inserting in a stand; the object is evidently intended to be carried about at pleasure or to be placed in a fixed stand. I presume it to have been intended to hold a lamp, possibly a candle. I place it before you to form your own conjectures if you think mine unsatisfactory; the workmanship is excellent, the design is artistic, the manner in which the acanthus leaf is divided, the raffling of the leaf as it is technically called, and the manner in which the veins are placed, denotes rather a late date, and I should suppose it to have been executed about the time of Dioclesian, at the end of the third century; its size is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $4\frac{7}{8}$ .

To one other metal relic I shall call your attention, it is

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iron tool being much like a stubbing axe — a pick at one end, and is fashioned like a spade or sharp edge on the other. It had a remnant of a wooden handle in the socket when found. It must have been a valuable tool for using in stiff clay, or amongst roots, or very hard ground ; considering it is iron, it has been wonderfully preserved ; it was likewise found near the stockade, and lent me by Mr. Fisher.

Near the new embankment, a silver denarius of Sabina, the wife of Hadrian, was found ; it was much corroded and a part broken off. She died in the year 137. Although not a work of metal, I wish to shew you a fragment of Samian ware, it is a lion head spout of a flat vessel, it is curious from the manner in which it has been worn away ; the execution is good, it was likewise found near the stockade.