

ART. XXI—*An attempt at a Survey of Roman Cumberland and Westmorland, continued. Part. IV.*

*The Camps at Mowbray and Whitbarrow. Also, some recent Roman finds.*

*Communicated at Penrith, by R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A., July 10th, 1879.*

#### CAMP AT MOWBRAY.

HUTCHINSON, in his *History of Cumberland*, published in 1794, Vol. II., p. 346, writes :—

“At New Malbray, it is reported was a Roman camp, or fort, but the vallum has been defaced, and corn now grows upon the site of it; though some of the old inhabitants remember part of the wall standing. Our correspondent, who doth not pretend to be skilful in Roman antiquities, informs us, that, on a stone said to be taken from the wall, he read L. TA. PRAEF COH II PANNON FECIT. Probably this inscription, if fully recovered, would have shown us that the Spaniards built the wall, or some public edifice there, and is of no greater importance.”

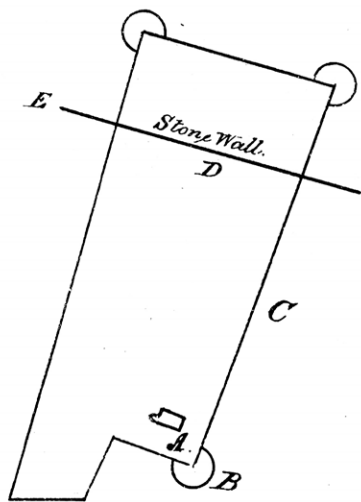
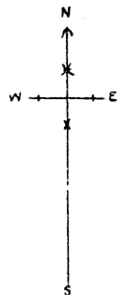
Obviously Hutchinson never saw the camp, nor has it (in my opinion) ever been seen by any writer who mentions it.

The Bishop of Cloyne, in Lyson's *Magna Britannia*, Vol. IV., p. 147, published in 1816, says of the camp near Mawburgh or Malbray :—

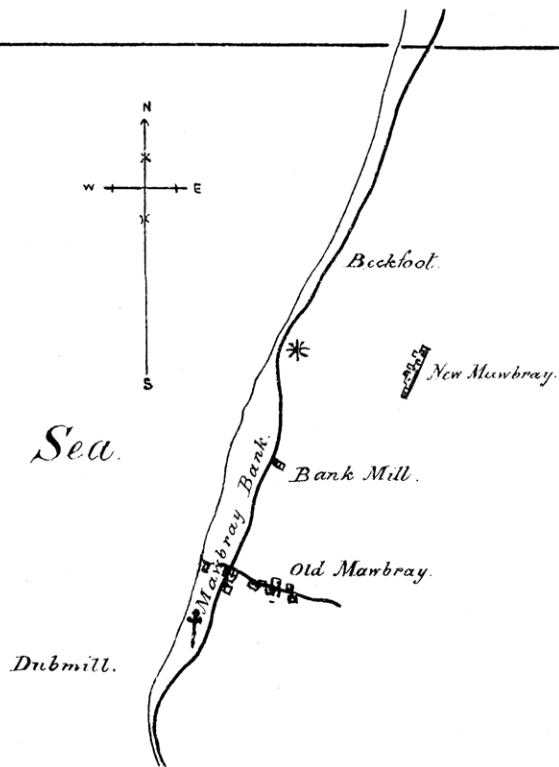
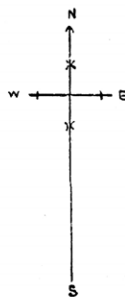
“It is now a ploughed field, but old men still speak of its having been walled round, and a stone has been dug up within the area, with an inscription making mention of the second cohort of the Pannonians.”

Whelan, in his *History of Cumberland*, published in 1860, p. 286, writes :—

“Beckfoot is a village in this township about six miles west of Abbey Town. *From the many ancient foundation stones found in its vicinity* it is supposed to have been formerly much larger. Here is a *place called Castlefields*, said to have been the site of an ancient fortress,  
which



Whitbarrow Camp



Mawbray Camp

which is generally understood to have been one of the partially fortified farm houses of the monastery \* \* \* \* Mawbray or Malbrey is situate near the sea shore, two miles above Allonby, and is supposed to have been the site of a small Roman encampment. Hutchinson says 'that the vallum has been defaced, and corn now grows upon the site of it, though some of the inhabitants remember part of the wall standing. On a stone, said to have been taken from the wall, was this inscription L TA PRÆF. COH. II PANNON FECIT.' This indicates that some portion of the Pannonian legion may have been stationed in the neighbourhood during the Roman occupation of the country."

I am of opinion that Castlefields is the site of the Roman camp (where the inscribed stone of the Pannonians was found), or of some of its suburbs, for the following reasons:—

In the accompanying sketch the thin line represents the coast line: the thick, the present road between Silloth and Allonby: \* is Castlefields. Between the road and the sea, Mawbray Bank extends from Beckfoot past Old Mawbray.

"Old Mawbray" is generally known now as "Mawbray." "New Mawbray" is generally known now as "Newtown."

Whelan, who writes second-hand from Hutchinson, writes of "Mawbray," not saying which he means, and probably only knowing of Old Mawbray. But Hutchinson says the camp is near New Mawbray.

I had neither book at hand when I first went in quest of the camp. I went to Old Mawbray, and enquired from some old inhabitants for a camp, or for mounds or dykes, but could hear of none, until I lit upon the blacksmith, who told me of a field "near Newtown (*i.e.* New Malbray) called 'Castles,' where he had heard Mawbray Castle once stood." I got the same story from the miller's wife at Bank Mill. A letter to the parson of the parish only got that he had often enquired for the site of a Roman camp, and could not find it.

I have paid some three visits to Castlefields. The gate  
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from the road is nearer Beckfoot than New Mawbray, but the remains run towards New Mawbray. We found (Mr. Lees was with me) about two acres, which had evidently been built upon; no stone work to be found; no squared stones in the neighbouring dykes; no pottery in the rabbit holes; nothing to shew whether what once existed here was Roman or later. But the drifted sand on the coast is very deep, and any remains would probably be many feet below the turf. However, Castlefields is not "a fortified farmhouse of the monastery," (*i.e.* Holm Cultram Abbey,) as Whelan suggests. The name and site of every one is known. Mawbray had no castle at the dissolution. Both these statements are proved by the Surveys, tempore H. 8, Eliz. Charles I., &c., which give minute particulars of the whole parish of Holm Cultram. I therefore conclude it to be Roman.

Castlefields presents that dry and parched appearance presented by old camps, where buildings are below. We could not make out the gates or the angles—the site was much like the suburbs round Old Carlisle. Possibly Castlefields is the site of the suburbs, and the camp itself is completely overblown with sand—forty acres of land in this vicinity were overblown in the time of Queen Elizabeth. <sup>1</sup>

A site at † was afterwards pointed out to me as that of the camp; it presents no sign thereof, but that the brook has cut through a huge sand hill in a way which makes it look like the angle of a camp. It does not agree with Hutchinson's statement of being near New Mawbray, nor with the Bishop of Cloyne's statement that the camp is a ploughed field. This site is on the unenclosed sea shore.

#### THE WHITBARROW CAMP.

The following remarks and accompanying sketch are the result of a visit paid to this little-known camp, which lies not far from Penruddock railway station—north-east of  
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some new tile works. A lane from the west end of the village of Motherby leads directly to the camp, whose long sides run from north-east to south-west. It is surrounded by a rampart and external ditch, which can be traced all the way round with more or less clearness, but which are most distinct at the south angle. The dimensions were paced by Mr. Lees, who accompanied me, and indeed guided me to the camp, he knowing its site well. They are as follows : —

South-west side 97 yards.  
 South-east side 241 yards.  
 North-east side 116 yards.  
 North-west side 216 yards.

At the north, east, and south angles are traces of circular bastions. At the west angle there is a quadrilateral projection, one of whose sides is a continuation of the north-west side of the camp, and measures fifty-seven yards. The other measurements of the projection are : —

South-west side 42 yards.  
 South-east side 39 yards.  
 North-east side 46 yards,

which last side is open, along the gorge, to the camp. A stone wall runs through the camp from N.W., by W., to S.E. by E.

Old roads show entering the camp about the middle of every side. A marsh, once no doubt a lake, defends the camp on the north-west and south-west sides, and traces of suburbs appear between the camp and the marsh. One of the springs of Dacre beck rises in the marsh.

In the south angle of the camp, at A, are remains of a tank, now grown up with rushes, and measuring sixteen yards by, at B, ten yards. A stone circle is just outside of this angle, and outside of the south-east side, about midway of its length, is a swallow-hole, at C, into which

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a number of large stones have been pitched,—the *debris* of a stone circle, broken up some years ago. A mound of some height is within the camp, at D, near the stone wall which crosses the camp. To the north-west of the camp, this stone wall runs across a very remarkable mound, or nob, E, which commands a view all round, except up the Keswick valley, which is blocked by Whitbarrow Hill.

There are no remains of masonry, or of walls, but in some parts the rampart of the camp seems to denote the foundations of stone walls being yet in, *i.e.*, dry-walling grown over with turf. The camp is known to have been the source from which large quantities of stone have been taken for building. The lower stones of the stone wall, which crosses the camp, are of immense size. I fancy the Romans found the ground covered (as it still is a little way from the south angle) with stones, that they cleared the ground, and formed their walls of the stones thus collected without mortar.

The position of the camp is very fine; the south-west side is directly opposite the entrance to Matterdale, guarded by East and West Mell Fells, between which is a small camp. The road leaving the south-west side points directly to Matterdale, and a Roman road went up Matterdale. From the centre of the north-west side of the camp a road points directly up the Keswick valley, crossing the marsh by a causeway. An outpost on Whitbarrow Hill would command a view up the Keswick valley, between West Mell Fell and the Dods on one side, and Saddleback and Souter Fell on the other. From the north-east side an old road points between the end of the Saddleback system and Carrock Fell to Old Carlisle. From the south-east side another road points eastward, either to Old Penrith or Brougham.

This camp corresponds exactly with West's description (see his "Guide to the Lakes," 2nd edition, pp. 139-40; 8th edition, p. 141). Clarke, in his "Survey of the Lakes,"

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pp. 50-1, gives an account of this camp, and says that it is called by Horsley "Redstone Camp," and by Camden, "Stone-Carron." See Jefferson's Leath Ward, p. 386.

#### SOME RECENT ROMAN FINDS.

1. Is a carved stone of which I exhibit a rubbing. This stone now does duty as a gatepost on a road between Little Orton and Bow, some three or four miles out of Carlisle. It stands about 4 feet 3 inches out of the ground, and its other dimensions are about 1 foot and 1 foot 6 inches; a piece has been knocked off the top, which gives it rather the appearance of a hog-backed stone, set up on end. On one side two vine tendrils form a guilloche pattern of three large circles: the spandrils between the circles, and the circles are filled up with vine foliage and bunches of grapes. The other three sides of the stone have been worked plain, as if to be built into some erection. I conjecture that it has formed part of the frieze of some Roman building. Its history has been ascertained: it was brought many years ago from a place in the vicinity called Kirksteads, a small Roman station near the Roman Wall, and adjoining a farmhouse called Cobble Hall, where was found, in 1800, the noble Roman altar, engraved in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, as No. 508. Other stones of similar pattern to the one I am now describing are said to have been removed from Kirksteads, and to be still in the vicinity: search is being made for them.

An old field road, no doubt Roman, leads from Grinsdale church, which stands on the site of a mile castle on the Roman Wall, past Kirksteads, to Little Orton, and points towards the great Roman Camp at Old Carlisle near Wigton.

2. A fragment, the base of a Roman altar, has recently been found in digging a grave in Cross Canonby churchyard, near Maryport. A few letters appear on it, of which

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a rubbing has been sent to Mr. Watkin Thompson, who reads it : — \*

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* VS. PRAEFE  
 \* OH. I. DELM.

The altar has been erected to some Deity, whose name is lost, by . . . tus, Præfect of the 1st cohort of Dalmatians (Delmatarum), which is known to have been stationed at the large neighbouring station at Maryport. This fragment is now at Netherhall.

3. A stone figure, presented by Mr. H. B. Dodd to the Carlisle Museum, representing a youth† with a cornucopia in his left hand, and a patera which he holds on the top of an altar in his right. It was found in Annetwell Street, in Carlisle, some thirty yards south of Hadrian's vallum, where the vallum forms the boundary between the City of Carlisle and the socage of Carlisle castle. Similar figures are engraved in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, Nos. 708, 710, 711, and 755. It measures 13 inches in total height, by 8 inches across the base, which is 2 inches high at the ends, and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in the middle. A sunk space ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide) on the line contains a nearly obliterated inscription in three lines :

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* C \* \*  
 \* DOMVS F

4. Is a carved slab of red sandstone, found in digging a grave in the churchyard of Bowness-on-Solway, which is immediately to the south of the site of one of the camps on the great Wall of Hadrian. The slab measures 1 foot 8 inches broad ; its upper part, including the head of the figure, is gone, and what remains is about 2 feet 3 inches

\* Archæological Journal Vol. 36, p. 155.

† A full-length figure, not a half-length, as stated in the Archæological Journal, Vol. 36, p. 154.

high



high. It represents a standing figure, now headless, in long robe reaching to the feet, and an over robe, girt round the waist by a long band which hangs down in front. The right hand caresses a dog, which is jumping up; its attitude rather forced in order to display the well-known Roman charm against the evil eye. The left hand supports a bird. This slab is now in the Carlisle museum, through the kindness of the Rev. S. Medlicott, Rector of Bowness.

5. A lead coffin, perfectly plain, was found at Botcherby, near Carlisle, in the grounds of Mr. Hamilton, market gardener. It had no lid; was formed out of a solid sheet of lead, the ends and sides bent up and lapped over. Slight remains of a wooden coffin were found, and a bit of a skull, and of a leg bone. The coffin lay north-west to south-east, (feet to south-east,) and at a depth, from the surface to bottom of the coffin, of 4 feet 6 inches. It laid on the rock, in a bed of red sand, over which was a top spit of made soil of about 1 foot. The dimensions were 5 feet  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, by 18 inches deep at head, and 13 inches at foot, by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep at head, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  at foot.

6. Is a magnificent carved slab of which, through the obliging courtesy of the editor of *The Graphic*, an illustration is given, taken from a photograph by Messrs. B. Scott & Son, Carlisle. The slab is of grey chalk stone; its extreme height is 4 feet 4 inches; height to top of alcove inside, 3 feet 6 inches; to spring of alcove, 2 feet  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches; extreme breadth, 2 feet 11 inches; breadth within the pilasters, 2 feet  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. It is of late provincial work, and represents a group under an alcove supported by pilasters, one on either side, each having two reedy flutes. A second group is on the top of the alcove. The lower group represents a female figure, seated in a cushioned chair, and dressed in upper and under tunic, of which the first reaches to the ankles, the latter to the ground. The wide sleeves reach a little below the elbow. Her hair is  
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most carefully arranged with a little curl, *à l' Imperatrice*, gummed on either cheek. Her right hand is raised, and holds a circular fan, of the kind now common, and made to open and shut.\* A child stands at her left side, and her left hand rests on his left shoulder. A bird is on her knees, with which the child is evidently playing. On the top of the alcove is another group, the centre-piece of which is a figure whose head has been knocked off, and which holds in its hands a mask. Right and left are two lions, each mumbling human heads. The back of the slab is rough and unworked, but the work of the pilasters is carried about three inches round the sides, as if the slab was intended to be built into a wall, from which it should project about three inches. The heads of both groups seem to have been intentionally mutilated, and the upper portion of the dexter pilaster has been chiselled off.

Lions similar to those on the top of the alcove have been found in various places in the north of England: see Nos. 57 and 480 in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*. They are supposed to bear reference to the worship of the Persian Sun-God, Mittras, or Mithras.

This slab was found in November, 1878, near Murrell Hill, Carlisle, in a locality, which though now almost covered by buildings, is far outside the limits of the Roman city of Luguwallium. It is not, however, very far from the road by which the Romans must have gone from Luguwallium (*i.e.*, Roman Carlisle) to Dalston, near which place they worked some quarries, now known as Shawk quarries, where is or was a Roman inscription, figured No. 505 in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*. In this locality, — the north end of Murrell Hill, — excavations were being made by Mr. James Nelson, of Carlisle, for the purpose of

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\* The usual classical fan was of feathers or leaves, but examples of the circular fan that opens are found in Gaul, as I am informed by Mr. Roach-Smith. The ivory or bone handles of such fans have been found in York, but their use was doubted, until this find supplied the identification. These fans were re-introduced into England from Italy in the early part of the seventeenth century.

extending



ROMAN MONUMENTAL SLAB FOUND NEAR CARLISLE.

extending his marble works, when the workmen lit upon the fine slab now described.

The excavators came upon a considerable pit dug in the undisturbed clay, and afterwards filled up, — all trace being obliterated by a continuous top spit of vegetable earth, nigh 2 feet deep. The slab itself lay at the bottom of the pit, face downwards. On careful search, after the slab had been found, I could find nothing but a very minute fragment of Samian ware, with the guilloche ornament on it. Coins were found, but disappeared at once. I heard of a second brass of Hadrian and a silver denarius.

Further excavation in the vicinity was stopped by the long frost, and has only recently been resumed. A small vase of rough grey clay has been found: it measures  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, and resembles figure No. 149 in "Jewitt's Half-hours with English Antiquities."

It is to be hoped that the inscription belonging to this slab may be found. The similarity between this stone and the one mentioned by Dr. Bruce in the following note is curious:

"Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 22nd Nov. 1878.

"My dear Mr. Ferguson,

"The stone which has just been discovered is indeed an interesting one. I suppose it is a monumental one. I would have expected to find at the bottom of it an inscription. A stone of similar size and importance has recently been found at South Shields. It has three lines of inscription in Latin and one in the language and letters of Palmyra. The face of the figure is knocked off, just as yours is. I suppose the object which the lady holds in her hand is a fan. I agree with you in thinking that the upper part of it resembles that of 480 in the Lapidarium, and the drapery resembles that of 500. I quite think that the same sculptor has executed all three.

"Is the spot where it was found by the side of a road leading out of Roman Carlisle?"

An account of the South Shields slab, by Mr. Watkin Thompson, with illustration, will be found in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. 36, p. 157.

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By the kindness of Mr. James Nelson, the Murrell Hill slab is now in the Carlisle museum.

7. There was sold at Keswick, in June, 1879, among the effects of the late General Sir John G. Woodford, K.C.B., K.C.H., a semi-cylindrical vessel of stone with lid, about 1 foot 10 inches high, and 11 inches broad. On the front two figures with wreaths of flowers and the following inscription : —

D.M.  
I. PASSIENO· DIOPITHI  
PASSIENA· ACTE·  
CONIVGI ·BEN·ME  
ET· SIBI·FECIT

It is certainly of continental work, from whence Sir John brought many of his curiosities, but I record it here, as at some future period it may be assigned to Cumberland. Acte was the name of Nero's mistress, and Crispus Passienus was his step-father, but both names, and that of Diopithes, are common.

8. An inscribed stone at Bowness, which is evidently the one mentioned in Hutchinson's Cumberland, Vol. II., p. 486. This stone will be noticed on a subsequent occasion.