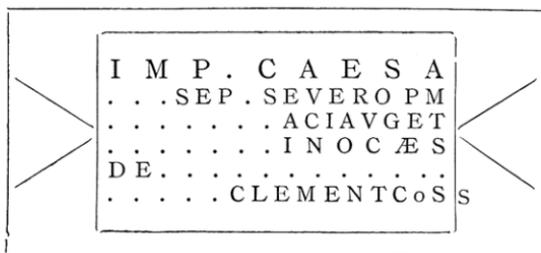


ART. XXVIII.—*Roman Inscription found at Brough-under-Stanemore.* By W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

Read at Penrith, January 20th, 1881.

DURING the “restoration” of the ancient church of Brough-under-Stanemore, in Westmorland, in 1879, in addition to the discovery of the interesting Runic inscription, there was found in the foundations of the south porch an inscribed stone of the Roman period, which appears to have been one of the class usually placed over the gateways of Roman *castra*. It has evidently been much ill-used in the period which elapsed between the withdrawal of the Roman forces from Britain, and the time when the builders of the church inserted it in that fabric. From this cause fully one-half of the inscription is destroyed. The letters visible upon it at present are:—



The inscription, which I communicated to the “Academy,” has led to a discussion between Professor Hübner, of Berlin, and myself as to its purport. This, however, I do not intend to reproduce, but will simply in the first place give my own view of the inscription, and subsequently name the points of difference with my opponent.

From the first two lines of the inscription we gather that t is of the reign of Septimius Severus, who was Emperor
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from A.D. 193 to A.D. 211. From the end of the fourth line, which is visible, the limits of the date are still further narrowed to between A.D. 193 and A.D. 198, there being no Cæsar whose name in the dative would terminate in INO after that year. The sixth line names the consuls for the year in which the stone was erected, and though it is much obliterated, I think that most of those antiquaries who have inspected the stone will agree with me that CLEMENT CoSS. is the termination of the line. Now, the only person who was consul during the period A.D. 193-198 bearing the name of Clemens, held office in A.D. 195, in which year we find by the "Fasti" that Scapula Tertullus and Tineius Clemens were consuls. Consequently the last line of the inscription when complete would read TERTVLL ET CLEMENT CoSS.

But this leads to another enquiry, in which it is necessary to review the history of Rome for two or three years previously. After the death of the Emperor Commodus in A.D. 193, the Roman Empire remained for some time in a most unsettled state. Helvius Pertinax was first proclaimed Emperor, but was killed after reigning three months. Didius Julianus then bought the purple from the Praetorian Guards, but he also was killed after a reign of two months. After his death Septimius Severus claimed the throne, and was opposed, though at a distance, by two other competitors, Pescennius Niger in the extreme East, and Clodius Albinus in Britain and Gaul.

Severus, from motives of policy, conferred the title of Cæsar upon Albinus in A.D. 193, and then turned his arms against Niger, who, in the following year, A.D. 194, after being defeated at Nicaea and Issus, was slain at Antioch.

Severus did not at once attack Albinus, but as the accounts of historians as to the movements of the latter somewhat differ, it is necessary to trace his career.

Capitolinus, who wrote the life of Albinus, says that he received the command in Britain from Commodus, which
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is confirmed by Aurelius Victor. The former author also says that Commodus, being displeased with Albinus for a speech he had made in Britain, sent one Junius Severus to succeed him. We have no absolute date as to these transactions, but the latter was probably at the very close of the reign of Commodus, and it seems most likely that Junius Severus never arrived in the island, for the historian Xiphiline tells us that in the time of Didius Julianus, Albinus commanded in Britain.

It is a question whether Severus did not make a virtue of a necessity in recognising Albinus as Cæsar, for Aurelius Victor's account of the transactions of this date would certainly lead to the conclusion that Albinus *proclaimed himself Cæsar*, and that in *Gaul*. The other writers of the epoch, Dio, Herodian, and Capitolinus, merely state that Severus declared Albinus Cæsar.

That Albinus did cross over to Gaul, is certain, but *when*, we must consider immediately. In the year of Niger's defeat (A.D. 194), he was the colleague of Severus in the consulship, and several laws are still extant, bearing their joint names. Severus having war in the East on his hands, did not openly proceed to attack Albinus until A.D. 196, and it was on the 19th February, A.D. 197, that his fate was decided, after a sanguinary battle upon the plains of *Tinur-tium*, near *Lugdunum* (the modern Lyons).

Now, it is obvious that if Albinus was recognised as Cæsar until the time of his death, that in the inscription under consideration, the end of the fourth line should be (ALB)INO. CAES. This was at first the conclusion I came to, but Dr. Hübner reads the end of it as NINO. CAES., the NINO being part of the word ANTONINO, and referring to Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, the son of Severus (better known as Caracalla). He further says that had the name of Albinus occurred on any monument, it would have been erased after his defeat, by order of Severus. But how are these differences to be reconciled, for it was probably

probably early in A.D. 196 (though still in the lifetime of Albinus) that Antoninus was declared Cæsar. We have a law bearing his name as such, dated 30th June of that year. The stone, if the names of the consuls are correctly read, is of A.D. 195.

The clue would seem to be found in an inscription discovered at Ilkley some three centuries ago, dedicated to Severus, and also to Antoninus as *Cæsar Destinatus*. The exact year in which this inscription was erected is not known, but the name of Virius Lupus as Imperial Legate in Britain occurs in it. Hence several writers have concluded that it must have been erected *after* the death of Albinus, when Virius Lupus is known to have been legate here. In fact Dr. Hübner supplies IMP. between CAES. and DESTINATVS in the inscription, in order to agree with four continental inscriptions, of which one is known to be of A.D. 197. There is no reason, in my opinion, for doubting the correctness of CAES. DESTINATVS. in the Ilkley inscription. In the first place—what was the first intimation of hostility given to Albinus by Severus? Was it the withdrawal of the title of Cæsar from him? If so, courtiers would at once address Antoninus as *Cæsar Destinatus*. It seems confirmed by the fact that Albinus, up to the year A.D. 194, claims only the title of Cæsar upon his coins; but afterwards on coins (not issued at the Roman mints, but in Gaul or Britain), he claims the title of Augustus also.

But where was Albinus during this period? Was he in Britain or Gaul? If the statement of Aurelius Victor is correct, he was certainly in the latter province, and was acknowledged as Cæsar there. The statement of Herodian (Lib. III, cap. 20) is that Albinus, having passed from Britain, encamped in that part of Gaul which lies over against it. *When* this occurred is uncertain. Aurelius Victor seems to intimate that he would have re-crossed to Britain had he not been attacked by Severus in Gaul.

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Another point is, did the Roman Legions stationed in Britain recognise the usurpation of Albinus, and follow him to the Continent? From the description by Herodian, of the battle of *Tinurtium*, it would seem they were not there, for he speaks of the forces of Albinus as "the Britons," as if his army was composed of Britons. An altar found at the Roman station at Old Carlisle, which must have been erected before the elevation of Antoninus to the rank of Cæsar, for it is dedicated to Severus alone, would lead us to infer that the regiment which erected it (*Ala Augusta*) did not recognise the authority of Albinus, and there is no appearance of any erasure, as if his name had been there in the first place and then removed. And if the Roman forces were in Britain during the absence of Albinus in Gaul, who was their commander? Why should there not be (as usual) an imperial legate in the island?

Another altar found at Bowes, in Yorkshire, names Virius Lupus as *Legatus Augusti* not *Legatus Augustorum*, shewing him as the legate of Severus only. Even Dr. Hübner gives the date of this altar as prior to A.D. 197. Why then should not Virius Lupus have been here in A.D. 195 or previously? If Albinus had been recognised as Cæsar, there is no reason why either Virius Lupus or any one else should not have been sent here as Imperial Legate.

To my mind this newly-discovered Brough inscription confirms the correctness of the reading of that found at Ilkley, which is now unfortunately lost.

At first Dr. Hübner denied the existence of the names of consuls in the last line, and asserted that the stone was dedicated to the Emperors under the superintendence of a corporal (*decurio*.)

This is manifestly wrong. None of this class of inscriptions are ever dedicated by a man of lesser rank than the commanding officer of the corps,—generally a Praefectus or Tribunus.

Dr. Hübner also assumed that the stone had been dedicated

cated by the 2nd Cohort of the Gauls, and had been brought from Old Penrith (twenty-six miles distant) which is in the highest degree improbable.

On the other hand Dr. McCaul, of Toronto (author of *Britanno-Roman Inscriptions*), confirms my reading of CoSS in the last line; this abbreviated word, proving that it is consuls who are named.

He also thinks that PERTIN (in a ligulate form) was at the end of the second line, whilst Dr. Hübner affirms that only PI (part of PIO) is visible. PIO *should* be there, but there are evidently traces of more than this. To my eye PM (for *Pontifici Maximo*) are the letters, though not coming in their usual position.

From the irregularity of the lines, and the appearance of obliterated letters between them, I think it is quite possible that the inscription has in the first place borne the name of Albinus, which has afterwards been obliterated, so that the name of Antoninus as *Cæsar Destinatus* might take its place. In fact I believe that DE, as the commencement of the latter word, will be observable to most antiquaries at the beginning of the fifth line.

This is the first Roman inscription upon stone which the station of Brough-under-Stanemore has produced, though a great number of small leaden seals, for suspension by a string round the necks of recruits, have been found there. They bear the names of various corps belonging to the Britanno-Roman army.

I need scarcely add that the station has been identified with the Roman *Verteræ*, garrisoned by the *Numerus Directorum*, a sort of guides.