

ART. XXVII.—*Triple Vases of Roman date, found at Carlisle.*

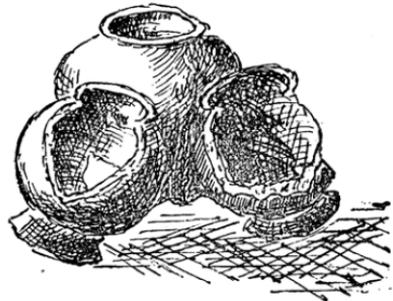
By Margaret J. Ferguson.

Read at Sedbergh, August 4th, 1892.

A WRITER in the January number of *The Antiquary* called attention to two triple vases of Roman date found in England, one at Vinovium (Binchester, co. Durham), the other at Olicana (Ilkley), and wished to know the use of these vases and if others like them had been found. He describes them as like those found at Troy, and quotes the following from an account of the late Dr. Schlieman's excavations at Troy:—



VINOVIUM



OLICANA

Some vase shapes are specially interesting because they are found again in the oldest necropoleis of Cyprus, and nowhere else besides. Such are the slim vases with long bill-like neck (the so-called German Schnabelkanne), so frequent in Troy, and the vessels made up of several vases fastened together.

Since then my father has found several English examples: Mr. Robert Ferguson, F.S.A., of Morton, has
two

two in his collection, both found many years ago in Carlisle, and both are much broken. Another was found recently in the foundations of Tullie House; also broken. It is very like those at Morton, and in all these examples the three vases communicate internally with one another. Each set of triple vases consists of three little vases side by side, joined together at the widest parts. They are narrow at the mouths and widest in the middle. Each vase stands on its own bottom, which is very narrow. They are about four inches high and three inches in diameter.



TROY

Two perfect examples of these vases have been found at York, and are in the museum in the grounds of St. Mary's Abbey; and in the Guildhall Museum, London, there are four more triple vases of Roman date. These were found in London, and differ considerably from the others already mentioned. The London vases stand upon, and are part of, a ring or base of the same earthenware as that of which the vases are made. This ring or base is probably hollow, and in communication with the vases at their respective bases. One of this type, found at Carlisle, and much broken, is in the Morton collection.

There

There is not much evidence to show what these vases were originally intended for. They are too narrow at the top and too deep to be used by Roman ladies for their rings and studs. Being in communication with one another excludes the suggestion that they were used to hold different sauces at the dinner table. They are not steady enough for pigeons to feed out of them. The most probable solution is that they were used for holding small bouquets or button-holes of flowers.

N.B.—The Society is indebted for the loan of the electros used with this Paper to the kindness of the Publishers of *The Antiquary*.