

ART. XXIX.—*Notes on a Bone Cave near Grange-Over-Sands.*

By H. Swainson-Cowper, F.S.A.

*Read at Seascale, September 21st, 1892.*

**D**URING the past year a limestone cave, containing human and animal remains, has been discovered and partly examined by Mr. W. R. Miller of Grange-Over-Sands. The cave is situated in the face of a small cliff, or ledge, of limestone (carboniferous) immediately below Merlewood (Mr. Miller's residence), and close to the road leading to Grange.

When first discovered by one of Mr. Miller's little boys, the mouth was blocked with rubbish, so that there was only an opening of some two feet in height. Mr. Miller at once took measures to enlarge the opening and clear the entrance, with the following results :—

The excavations at the cave mouth have opened out a chamber facing north-west. As yet, the natural limestone floor of this cave has not been found; but this chamber is seven feet wide and sixteen feet long, with a roof sloping down to the back. At ten feet from the entrance, the chamber abruptly narrows to half its width at the mouth, and from the extreme back, and lowest part, a winding passage has been discovered leaving the the right hand corner. This passage is but  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, and I was unable to penetrate into it, but it has been followed by a boy for about twelve feet. As its natural floor has not yet been found, it may be possible to examine it further.

The material removed from the entrance consisted of loose soil mixed with stones; in which, both immediately within and without the cave mouth, great quantities of animal bones, and a few human, were found. Professor  
T.

T. Mck. Hughes has examined these, and amongst them he found the lumber vertebra of an adult man of small stature. Amongst the animal bones were those of red and roe deer, *bos longifrons*, wolf, pig, badger, and cat. One bone has a piece cut out of its side by some sharp instrument. Besides these, there were seven Northumbrian stycas of Eanred, Ethelred, and Archbishop Vigmund; several fragments of red and black pottery, apparently Roman, and a good deal of charcoal. A few fragments of glass were found immediately within the entrance, and some of these Professor Hughes has, I believe, ascertained to fit together. One fragment of so-called Samian is remarkable, having had portions of the glaze chopped away, evidently intentionally. Besides these, there were one or two iron objects, which may be parts of rusted fibulæ. Below this deposit were large blocks of stalagmite covered limestone, apparently thrown together to form a rough flooring (?). A hole was made through this, on the occasion of my visit, and the crowbar, though forced for a considerable depth into the hole, did not reveal any true stalagmite flooring. No bones or relics were found in doing this.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller take the greatest interest in the cave, and further excavations will probably be carried out next year. So far all earth has been put through the sieve, so that no object, however small, is missed.

The accumulation of earth outside the entrance will probably next be removed, until the rock is found; and then the same operation will, if possible, be carried out within the cave. By following this plan, the material cleared out of the cave itself will not have to be thrown to such a height as it would if operations were at once continued within the cave.

The stycas are as follow :—

- 1.—Obv. EANRED REX. Rev. GADVTEIS.
- 2.—Obv. EDILRED RX. rev. EARDVLF.

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On this coin all the letters are reversed, and the legend begins with the last letter.

3.—Obv. EDELRED REX. Rev. FORDRED

4.—Obv. ERDED VEX. Rev. LEOFDEGN

The inscription of the obv. of this is much blundered, but it no doubt belongs to Ethelred.

Eanred. 808-840.

The name on rev. is incomplete. Archbishop Vigmund  
851.

5.—Obv. VIGMUND IPEP (AREP ?)

Rev. COENRED

6.—Undecipherable.

7.—Broken and undecipherable.

*Apropos* of the discoveries of Northumbrian stycas in this part of Lancashire, it should be remembered that in 677, Egfrid, King of the Northumbrian Angles, having conquered Cumberland, Westmorland, and the adjoining district, granted to St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindesfarne "the whole of the lands called Carthmell, with all the Britons in it."

ART. XXX.—On a Fragment of Roman Tile, found at Carlisle.

By F. Haverfield, M.A., F.S.A.

Read at Seascale, September 21st, 1892.

FRAGMENT of a tile, 4 inches wide by  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, found in 1890, 14 feet below the surface, in digging the foundation of the Presbyterian Manse in Fisher Street, Carlisle; roughly made in a sunk panel:—



*Le]g. viii[1*

Chancellor Ferguson sent me the tile to examine; the cut is full size. The first letter resembles G rather than C, and the fragment of the last points to I, so that the supplement given seems most suitable. Of other conjectures which might occur, *le]g viii[Aug.* is out of the question, as the letter after VIII has an upright stroke, and *c(ohors) viii Batavorum* seems objectionable in several ways

ways. That cohort may have been in Britain as late as the occupation of Carlisle, whenever that took place, and possibly, as Dr. Hübner has supposed, as late as Diocletian (A.D. 290), but it cannot be called at all probable. Nero, as Tacitus narrates, withdrew eight Batavian cohorts with the Fourteenth Legion from Britain, and a few months later we find them fighting alongside of other revolted auxiliaries under Civilis (A.D. 69). Then they almost vanish. The first, second, and third cohorts appear on the Danube in A.D. 98 and 108, the first on the Wall in A.D. 124, perhaps thanks to Hadrian, while a ninth cohort was at or near Passau.\* It seems therefore dangerous to assume that an eighth cohort returned to Britain after A.D. 79, and, as Carlisle was certainly not occupied before that date, our tile can have no reference to it. The lettering, be it added, is also against an initial c or final B. On the other hand, we have no other known eighth or ninth auxiliary cohort in Britain, and, though the tile might undoubtedly refer to a ninth cohort in a legion, such tiles are uncommon. On the whole, the Ninth Legion seems the best conjecture.

This legion lay in garrison at York, with a detachment at Aldborough, till its destruction in Hadrian's reign by a rising of Brigantes, when its place was taken by the Sixth Legion. Hitherto it has not been met further to the north than Aldborough, and its presence at Carlisle is not easy to account for with any certainty. It can hardly have taken any share in the building of the Wall, like the Second and Twentieth Legions, or we should have had other evidence of it. But Agricola certainly took the Ninth Legion with him on his Caledonian expedition, and it is possible—though it is utterly incapable of proof—that this tile may date from Agricola's governorship

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\* Hübner *Hermes* xvi., 316; Mommsen *Ephemeris Epigraphica*. v., pp., 92, 174; *Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1892, No. 130.

or from the arrangements instituted then. From this point of view, it is interesting to observe that Carlisle was not actually one of the fortresses *per lineam valli*, though it is not far from the Wall.

If this view be accepted, we shall have positive proof that Carlisle dates, as a Roman fortress, from an earlier time than Hadrian's reign, and it is conceivable that it was the original fortress, which was superseded by Stanwix when the Wall was built by Hadrian.\* This, however, is mere conjecture, and may be more profitably left alone till more unmistakable evidence appears to demonstrate the origin of Roman Carlisle. The tile here published is sadly tantalising in its imperfect state, and it is so rudely lettered that we cannot be confident of finding any more specimens.

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\* A somewhat different view is given in Chancellor Ferguson's *Cumberland*, p. 100.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—The Society is indebted for the loan of the electro of the tile to the kindness of the Royal Archæological Institute, and of Mr. Haverfield.