

ART. XXI.—*A Grave Cover of Tiles at Carlisle.* By the
PRESIDENT.

Communicated at the Isle of Man, September 24, 1894.

WHILE engaged at the Midsummer Quarter Sessions for this year [July 3, 1894] holden for the county of Cumberland, a note was handed up to me from the reporters' desk, informing me that a find of inscribed stones had just been made in Brook Street, Carlisle. Brook Street runs out of London Road to the eastward and is within the district, which I have shown to have been the principal cemetery of Roman Carlisle, of *Luguvallium*.* Not being able then to go myself, I asked our fellow member, the Rev. W. S. Calverley, to go to Brook Street and make what enquiry he could about the find, and the circumstances under which it was made: this account is written from Mr. Calverley's notes.

The "inscribed stones" turned out to be a barrow load of red roofing tiles of Roman date, of which only two were unbroken: these tiles measure each 18 inches by 12½ inches at the one end, and 12 inches at the other: the thickness is 1½ inch: a flange about an inch deep is turned down along the longer sides, and these flanges at the wider ends are notched out to receive the narrower ends of other tiles. Lengthwise on one of the whole tiles is the stamp

LIIG II AVG

that is *Legio Secunda Augusta*, the two I's being used instead of E:† portions of this stamp appear on other of

* Transactions Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, vol. xii, p. 365.

† See an instance in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, No. 100, and see Wright *The Celt, the Roman and the Saxon*, 3rd edition, p. 233.

the

the fragments: on one the two last letters of it are duplicated, the stamp having slipped. The other whole tile has on it, crosswise,

LEG · XX VV

that is *Legio Vicesima Valeria Victrix*: There is a triangular stop between the LEG and the xx. The usual dog's pad, impressed on soft clay, is on one of the fragments. These tiles formed the cover of a grave, and were about three feet below the present level of the ground, the interment was just in, not on, the gravel, and the space excavated for it was 7 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 5 inches. The darkish fine mould found under the tiles, and the presence among it of several iron nails would seem to indicate the use of a wooden coffin. The grave lay nearly east and west, and the western portion had been smashed a good deal by the labourers, who removed the material. The eastern end of the grave cover was seen *in situ* by Mr. Calverley: from it, it appears that the cover was constituted of three rows of tiles, the outermost rows being with the flanges turned upwards, and the centre row with them turned downwards over the inner flanges of the two outer rows. Only the middle row of tiles were stamped, and as five stamped tiles appear, we get five tiles by three as the length and breadth of the grave cover, unless the solitary tile marked LEG · xx vv belongs to another interment, but it is more likely that the legionaries of the Augustan Legion in burying a departed comrade had to eke out a deficiency in tiles by borrowing from *Valeria Victrix*.

Several tombs covered with tiles have been found at York, and some of them are preserved in the York Museum,* the tiles bearing the stamps of the Sixth and of the Ninth Legions. The tiles, whole and broken, now found at Carlisle, have been removed to the Museum at Tullie House.

* *Handbook to the York Museum*, Eighth Edition, Nos. 70 to 73 d.