

CHILD'S TOY : ROMAN.

ART. VI.—*Recent Local Finds of Roman Date.* By THE
PRESIDENT.

Communicated at Shaft Wells, July 15th, 1897.

I. **I**N the last week of 1896, in excavating foundations for some new premises to be built for Mr. W. D. Todd, on a site on the east* side of Botchergate, Carlisle, near the north end, a perfectly plain urn of red ware was found, containing the calcined bones of a child from four to six years of age. The diameter of the base is about 5 inches, and the maximum diameter of the urn (at a height of 4 inches above that base) is 7 inches; from this point upwards the urn rapidly contracts, but the neck is completely broken away, and no part of the urn stands more than 5 inches high. In addition to the calcined bones there were found within the urn: (a) the base of another urn, 3 inches in diameter, this had evidently formed the lid; (b) a grotesque carving in bone, 2 inches in height, representing the upper part of a man wearing an enormous head-dress, not unlike that worn by our present Highland regiments. An illustration of this figure is given with this paper. It is, or rather was, flat at the back, but is warped by the action of fire, having been burnt with the child, with whose ashes it was found. In all probability it was one of the child's favourite toys, cremated with its little owner, in the belief that it would be required again in a future state. The circumstances point to this being the interment of the child of poor parents; its site is within the limits of the chief Roman cemetery of *Luguvallium*, and close to the town. That cemetery extended, some-

* In the *Proc. S.A.* 2nd series, vol. xvi, p. 298, "west" is given, by error, for "east," in the account of this find.

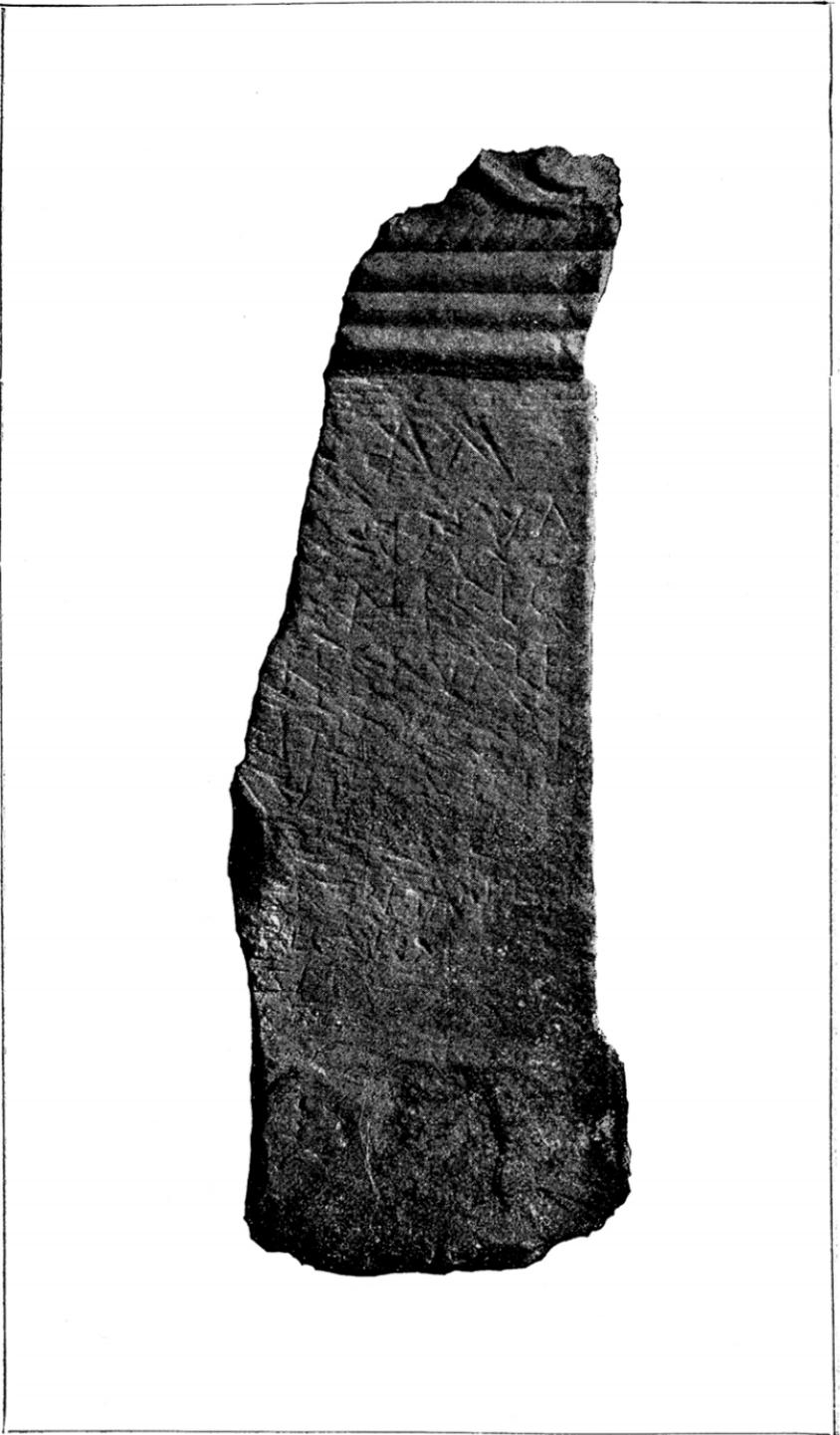
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what sparsely, right and left of the Roman road to the south, beginning just outside of *Luguvallium*, and extending over Gallows Hill to the river Petterill, a distance of about a mile.* It would seem from the interments that have been found that the poorer lie to the north, near to *Luguvallium*; the wealthier to the south, away from the town.

II. Another urn, containing the calcined and comminuted bones of a rather older child, say seven or eight years of age, was also found in the same cemetery on or about March 12, 1897. This urn is 8 inches in height, on a base $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Its diameter at the mouth is 6 inches, and the greatest diameter, at a point $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the base, is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It is of black ware and cross-hatched with slight scoring, and is perfect with the exception of the rim, of which two pieces are broken off and one is missing. A small hole has been made in one side by the pick. This urn was placed with the mouth upwards, and was covered by a triangular piece of flagstone. The exact spot where it was found was in a garden in the works of Messrs. Cowan and Sheldon, Carlisle, about 25 feet west of the London Road, and about two-thirds of the length of the great Roman cemetery from its north end. I have not heard that anything was found in the urn beyond bones, but I believe the contents were turned out by the workmen. A similar urn is said to have been found in the same garden a few days earlier, but was accidentally broken by the pick, and the fragments carted away. The urn, whose discovery is now recorded, is of the class pronounced by Professor Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., F.S.A., to be of the late Celtic or early Iron Period. The Professor some time ago identified in the museum at Tullie House, Carlisle, five or six urns of this period, three or four

* "On the Roman Cemeteries of *Luguvallium*," by Chancellor Ferguson, F.S.A., these *Transactions*, vol. XII, 365-374.

fibulæ,



ALTAR FROM CARDEWLEES: NOW IN TULLIE HOUSE, CARLISLE.

fibulæ, three pieces of enamel, and a torque of very yellow bronze, all of which had previously to his visit been considered Roman.

III. With this paper an illustration is given of a Roman altar, to which attention was first drawn by the Rev. W. F. Gilbanks, the rector of Great Orton. It was found about two fields from the New Inn, at Cardewlees, on the Carlisle and Wigton road. It was struck by a ploughman, who was sufficiently interested to excavate it and convey it to the home of Mrs. Pattinson, of Baldwin Holme, the landowner. The altar is much defaced, one side has broken away, and the back of the stone has "mitred." Its height is 3 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, width at base 1 foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, at top 9 inches. The field in which it was found is close to the great Roman road from *Luguvallium* (Carlisle) to the west. And Mr. Haverfield, F.S.A., writes:—

This inscription is a fragment of a red sandstone altar, 37 inches long by 12 inches broad, perfect on the top and the right, but otherwise cut about to suit some building. The inscription seems to me to have been intentionally erased, as was often the case with Roman inscriptions used for other purposes by the Romans themselves; the first M will, I think, convince any doubter. In consequence of the erasure, the lettering is very obscure. I can only put forward what I seemed to see, though it provides no proper sense. The letters are roughly cut and badly 'ruled.'

It is perhaps an altar to *Iuppiter Optimus Maximus*, [I. O.] M. At the end *voto* is plain, and a word which may be the end of *dedicavi*, this fitting in well with the dedicatory character of an altar. The rest is silence.

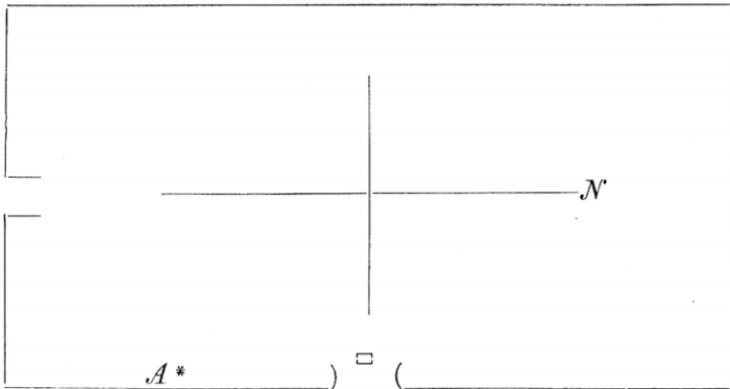
IV. A fragment of inscription was found lately near Brampton, on the south side of the Old Church Lane, (which is being widened), a little west of Park Head. Roman remains are said to have been found in the vicinity, but there appears to be no reason to consider the new find as Roman; it is a good deal later. The lettering is—

REX

REX FORTIBVS
IDEM * MVRV

V. The following interesting memorandum has been supplied by Mr. George Watson. Mr. Bell, the writer, was a land surveyor, residing at Plumpton, and communicated the same to the late Mr. Thos. Grierson in 1828.

SKETCH OF THE ROMAN STATION AT PLUMPTON
WALL.



REMARKS.

The north and west walls were dug up above fifty years ago (1778), and also the inside of the inclosure ransacked for stones long before that time. The south and east walls were cleared about seventeen years back, and I had then a good deal of leisure. I often went to see the labourers at work. The wall from the south gate to the east one was in general very perfect for about from three to four feet in height, and many very large stones were lying at the bottom of the wall covered with soil and rubbish. The five images mentioned by Lysons in his "History of Cumberland"³ were found in the founda-

* Lyson's *History of Cumberland* clxxxviii, where it is stated they were found in 1813. They are now at Abbotsford. *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, No. 805; they represent Jupiter, Apollo, Mars, Mercury, and Venus.

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tion of the wall about the place marked A in the sketch. When the east or principal gate was first cleared there was a small square room, on the south side of which the walls were very perfect, in which was found many remains of old iron, stags' horns, and other things in a much decayed state, and in the south gate were found iron hinges with burnt wood in them. The station had been 149 yards in length and 98 in breadth. If you wish for any further information you can tell Mr. Maxwell, and I will do whatever lays in my power.

Jos. BELL.

Plumpton, 5th Sept., 1828.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR —The sketch on the opposite page must not be taken as a plan of the camp, or of the eastern gate, but merely as a diagram to shew the position of A. The small square in the eastern gate is probably intended for the *spina* dividing the gate into two, and not for the square room mentioned by Mr. Bell.
