

ART. XIV.—*A note on Brocavum.* By R. G. COLLINGWOOD, M.A., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.

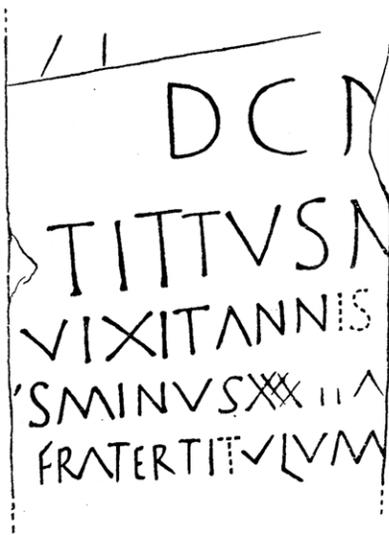
Read at Brougham, July 8th, 1921.

THE fifth Antonine Itinerary gives Brocavum (there is no warrant for the spelling 'Brovacum') as twenty Roman miles from Verterae and twenty-two from Luguvalium; comparison with the second Itinerary makes it about seven miles from Brovonacae on the south and about eight from Voreda on the north. The identification of these five sites as Brough-under-Stainmore, Kirkby Thore, Brougham, Old Penrith and Carlisle is quite certain.

A new importance is given to Brocavum by the valuable paper of Mr. Percival Ross in these *Transactions* N.S. xx, where it is convincingly shown that the road traversing the Lune gorge past Overborough and Low Borrow Bridge, and visible on the fells above Crosby Ravensworth (these *Transactions* N.S. viii-ix, on Ewe Close) runs not, as had been previously believed, to Kirkby Thore, but direct to Brougham. The obvious corollary of this is that the Lune—Brougham—Carlisle road is the original Roman line from Lancashire and Cheshire to the north, and Brougham thus appears as a vital link in what must have been an early and important chain of forts. The old problem as to the route by which Agricola, in A.D. 79, approached the Border may thus be considered as having reached, if not a proved, at least a presumptive solution; for since there was a direct Roman road along the straightest line of advance we can hardly refuse to admit the likelihood of his having laid out and used this road, and according to his custom defended it with forts; and of these forts Brougham must have been one, since no point between Kirkby Lonsdale and Carlisle so obviously required a fort as does the crossing of the Eamont.

The case for an Agricolan origin of Brocavum is strengthened by the fact that the branch-road from Kendal to Ravenglass is now proved by this Society's work at Ambleside, and by the further study of the finds at Hardknot (these *Transactions* N.S. xxi). If a branch from a main road existed before the Hadrianic scheme of fortification was carried out, *a fortiori* the main road, and therefore at least the chief forts on it, existed too.

The visible Roman ramparts, enclosing as they do a fort large enough for a milliary cohort, are doubtless the work of Hadrian's engineers in the years 120—130. But one can hardly doubt that excavation would reveal here, as at Ambleside, a smaller fort, perhaps as much as 45 years older, a relic of the pre-Hadrianic settlement associated with the name of Agricola.



There are several inscriptions, of which I mention one only because I am able to offer a new and independent copy of it. Bruce published it in *Lapid. Sept.* 814, which was copied by Hübner in *Ephemeris Epigraphica* iii., No. 91; but I cannot trace any other publication. I read D C M | TITTVS M... | VIXIT ANN... | PL]VS MINVS XXXII A... | FRATER TITVLVM[POS-

VIT. In l. 1 the c must be an error; *D(is) M(anibus)* must be intended; but the c is not, as Hübner thought it might be, a leaf-stop misread. In l. 2 Bruce has *Titius*, which may have been intended; in l. 3 he has *Annis*, which was doubtless on the stone, but I

could not see the last two letters ; in l. 4 he has *Pa* at the end ; and in l. 5 *Trulum*, which is not on the stone. The fact that the slab is built into the headway of an upper passage in the keep, out of reach except by climbing and very dark, makes it difficult to read or draw, but I reproduce my drawing for what it is worth. The stone is to the memory of Tittus M... or Titius M..., who lived about 32 years, and it was set up by his brother A... Its special interest lies in the fact that the formula *plus minus*, indicating a contempt of the meticulous reckoning of age customary on Roman tombstones, is a characteristically Christian phrase, and shows, almost with certainty, the presence of a Christian population at Brougham in the late third or fourth century of our era.

The figure is $\frac{1}{8}$ scale.