

Roman Coins found at Little Chester; with Historical Notes, &c.

BY GEORGE BAILEY.



AT THAT accomplished and eloquent writer, Addison, in his "Dialogue upon the Usefulness of Ancient Medals," says, "What curious observations have been made on spiders, lobsters, and cockle-shells? Yet the very naming of them is almost sufficient to turn them into raillery. It is no wonder, therefore, that the science of Medals, which is charged with so many unconcerning parts of knowledge, and built on such mean materials, should appear ridiculous to those that have not taken the pains to examine it. These small metal discs, so many of which have escaped the ravages of time's corroding rust, reveal to us the faces of all the great persons of antiquity, insomuch that a cabinet of coins is a collection of portraits in miniature."

The object of these notes is to bring together some of these portraits, and to give, in slight historical sketches, a glimpse of the characters of the originals, so as to make what would otherwise only be a dry list of Roman coins, of some interest; and to excite, if possible, a spirit of inquiry into this subject, which at present (so far as this town and county are concerned) appears to be almost, if not altogether, dead. From the great numbers of these coins which have from time to time been discovered, it seemed at first as if this would have been an easy task; but our expectations were disappointed, because it was found that indifference, carelessness, and neglect on the part of some who

possessed, or had formerly possessed, Roman coins, added to the curious ignorance of those who had unearthed them (who sometimes fancied them to be of fictitious value, and filed them to find out whether they were gold or silver), have often entirely obliterated what would otherwise have been found fairly good specimens. These causes have been far more destructive than time.

To prevent, if possible, the carrying away from the neighbourhood, and consequent loss to the town, of such interesting historical relics of the Roman occupation, may we venture to suggest, that in future such coins and other Roman remains found in the county should find a permanent resting-place in the public Museum, and that they be carefully labelled and well displayed in a suitable light for close examination and study. This is an important provisor, because it must be said that in too many instances, such small objects as these coins are found so arranged and displayed in many museums as to be practically useless, because of the fancy for showing only the *obverse* side of the same coin to the neglect of the *reverse*, which is mostly of more interest, and which, besides, differs so greatly in coins of the same emperor. Coins are always best arranged on a white ground, with sufficient margin; and should always have below them a copy of the letterings in the legends, inscriptions, and *exergues*, in printed letters, easy to see and read. Small writing is altogether out of place in a museum or cabinet. Very few people interested in such things can see small writing, and, of course, a good light is of the utmost importance.

We are aware that many persons have in their possession a few of these old coins, stowed away "somewhere"! that might just as well be nowhere; for our experience has been, that generally they could not be found, and if so fortunate, even then, the most valuable and interesting had been lost altogether. Others have been carried away from the neighbourhood, and are no longer accessible. It would, indeed, now be very difficult to bring together a complete collection of even Little Chester coins, to say nothing about those found throughout the county. It is,

however, hoped that this attempt to supplement what had been just begun by Lysons' and Glover will not be without interest and value, especially as copies of the best of those we have so far been able to get together, battered and worn and corroded though (with a few exceptions) they were, have been reproduced of the exact size of the originals, and with all defects, so that it may be easier for those who possess, or may eventually come into possession of such coins, to decipher them, should they be imperfect like these, as is most likely.

We give examples of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brass, together with three silver coins—*denarii*—Nos. 1, 2, and 6. Plates I. and II. Of actual brass we have only one, that of Nero, No. 3; but whether this is of the fine and much-esteemed yellow brass known to the Romans as *Orichalcum* we cannot decide. We had several more coins of a very much inferior kind of brass, but so much corroded as to be undecipherable, though they appear to have been interesting from what small remains are left on them. The coins we have been able to enumerate here, though they show great gaps in the years, and are examples of but a very small part of those in use during the Roman occupation, will yet be found to range pretty nearly over the whole time from Tiberius Cæsar to Valentinian II. or III., about which time the Roman power had seen its best days, and had begun to go down.

The effect produced upon Britain by the Roman government was much greater than we are now able to fully realise; but if we carry our minds back to the time when Julius first landed, and consider what our ancient fathers were then, and what they had become when the Romans left them, it will be more evident that 400 years of training under such disciplined men, possessed of so many accomplishments as the Romans were, could not fail to exert a great influence. Evidences of this influence are not wanting to this day, and possibly we are what we are to-day because they came so long ago, and made our forefathers what they did then. We are at any rate much more able now, since so much archæological interest has been felt in the various excavations of Roman cities and settlements which have been

made of late years, to extend our true knowledge of the manner of life of our conquerors, and of those whom they conquered, than was formerly the case.

It is matter of regret that, having a settlement of some importance so near to Derby, we have so little to show. The number of coins and vessels of pottery, with other remains, found from time to time, have been far from small. We have lately seen some fragments of pottery of the very best kind made in those days, showing that those who lived at Little Chester were persons of a cultivated taste. The time, we fear, is now gone by when anything can be done to materially improve the state of things, as nearly all the various objects found at Little Chester are now scattered to the four winds, instead of forming, as they might have done, an instructive and valuable collection in our local museum. Certainly there are a number of Roman coins there, but it is not known where they were found. We have given a list of them, as most, if not all, are such as have been found at Little Chester. They were presented by Mrs. T. B. Forman. They are as follows:—Tolemy, B.C. 367, Alexander Gt., 340. Vespasian, two coins, 60 and 69 A.D. Augustus, A.D. 14. Domitian, A.D. 81. Trajan, A.D. 98, Hadrian, 116, three coins. Sabina, wife of do., 116. Antonius Pius, 138, three coins. Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 161. Faustina, wife of do. Severus, 193, two coins. Manilia Scantilla, 193. Maximinus, 236. Gordianus, 238, two coins. Philip the Elder, 244. Etruseilla, wife of Trajanus Decius, 2 coins. Victorinus, 265. Maximianus Hercules, 285. Constantine Gt., 306, three coins. A denarius of Crixia Gens. These are all good specimens.

It will be observed that many of the above do not appear among our Little Chester coins. That is no proof that none have been found there, or may eventually be found, because our list is at present incomplete; and it is hoped that sufficient interest will be taken in this subject now, to enable a complete one to be made, if the members of this Society will kindly report all Little Chester coins that may come to their knowledge. The writer of this

article will also be glad to have any errors that may have been made in the descriptions here given corrected, if any such there be, as is not improbable.

We wish to thank very heartily all those who have in various ways helped us by lending coins, or supplying information, and lending books; especially Mr. Franks, C.B., of the British Museum, and Mr. Garbutt, of Duffield. The names of those who have lent coins used in this paper will be found appended to the coins as they occur in the list. In concluding this somewhat long and discursive introduction, we desire to express the hope that our efforts to show how much that is of interest and value attaches itself to these much-battered and time-worn discs, will enable us the better to understand the immense world-moulding influence exercised by this wonderful people in the past centuries, whose policy and government we even now in so many ways incorporate with our own.

There remain in our possession some few other coins which have not yet been fully deciphered. They must now stand over, and form a supplementary article in a future journal.

Perhaps it will be the better way to give Glover's list verbatim, and then to add to it those coins we have seen and examined, whether they occur in Glover's list or not, making such remarks on each as seem most desirable, in order to associate them with the history of the times in which they were in circulation. We now append Glover's list, taken from Vol. i., pp. 293-4-5, of his *History of Derbyshire*.

SEVERVS AVG . PERT . MAX. *rev.* FVNDATOR
PACIS. A female figure standing stolated and veiled, holding a dead branch in her right hand (arg. 54½ grains). A.D. 208.

L . SEPT . SEV . AVG . (the rest imperfect) *rev.* VICT .
PARTHICA . Figure, Victory standing, holding in her right hand a laurel, and in her left military trophies; at her feet a captive (arg. 37 grains).

IMP . SEV . ALEXAND . AVG. *rev.* PM . TR . P . XII .

COS . III . P . P. Figure, Mars gradiens, over his shoulder a mantle, the right hand extended; in the left a whip, the lash nowed (base silver, 49 grains). A.D. 222.

MAXIMINVS PIVS AVG. GERM. *rev.* FIDES MILITVM. Figure standing, holding in each hand a signum militare (arg. 43½ grains). A.D. 235-6.

IMP . PHILIPPVS AVG. *rev.* SAECVLARES AVG . G. in the centre a column, on which is COS . III . (arg. 56½ grains). A.D. 244-9.

IMP . PHILIPPVS AVG. *rev.* SAECVLARES AVGG. Figure, an antelope (arg. 48½ grains).

IMP . M . IVL . PHILIPPVS AVG. *rev.* PM . TR . P . III . COS . P . P. Figure, a female standing stolated, in the right hand a spear, ending in a caduceus, in her left a cornucopia (arg. 46 grains).

FL . MAX . THEODORA AVG. *rev.* PIETAS ROMANA. Figure, a female standing nursing a child in her left arm, and holding her right hand on her breast: to the left of the figure is a cross patee; in the exergue T . R . P. (small brass) 292.

IMP . CARAVSIVS P . P . AVG. *rev.* MONETA . Figure standing, holding a balance in her right hand, and a cornucopia in her left. 3rd. B. A.D. 293-300.

IMP . CARAVSIVS P . P . AVG. *rev.* PAX . AVG. Figure standing, holding in right hand a branch, in the left a hasta, entwined with a serpent. 3rd B.

(One similar to above is illustrated and described further on.)

Another, the same, excepting that the figure holds a cornucopia instead of a hasta. 3rd B.

IMP . CONSTANTINVS P . P . AVG. *rev.* PRINCIPI INVENTVTIS. Figure, a warrior, holding in each hand a signum militare between the letters S . A.; under his feet, P . T . R. (2nd B.). A.D. 306-337.

IMP . CONSTANTINVS MAX . AVG. *rev.* VICTORIAE . LARTAE . PRINC . PERP. An altar charged with a star, over which two figures of Victory are holding a shield, inscribed VOT . PR. in the exergue S T R.

IMP . CONSTANTINVS . AVG. *rev.* SOLI INVICTO
COMITI. Figure Mars.

(Of this an illustration is given Plate III., No. 16.)

IVL . CRISPVS NOB . CAES. *rev.* BEATA TRONQVIL-
LITAS. A votive altar, inscribed VOTIS XX., on the top of
which is the globe of earth, and above it three stars; exergue
P T R. A.D. 318-320.

FL . IVL . CRISPVS NOB . CAES. *rev.* CAESARVM
NOSTRORVM. Within a garland VOT . X. and exergue
P S I S.

CONSTANTINVS IVN . NOB . C. *rev.* GLORIA EXER-
CITVS. Two signa militaria between two soldiers, each holding
a scutum and pilum; in the exergue T R S. A.D. 340.

Ditto; the letters in the exergue being T R P.

Ditto; the letters in the exergue being S H A N G.

DN . FL . CONSTANTINVS NOB . C. *rev.* PROVIDEN-
TIA CAESS. In the centre a castle or wall with a gateway,
and at the top three balls; exergue S M H E. A.D. 340.

CONSTANS P . P . AVG. *rev.* GLORIA EXERCITAS.
On a signum militare the letter M. between two warriors, each
holding a scutum and pilum. A.D. 340.

CONSTANS P . P . AVG. *rev.* VICTORIAE D . D .
AVGG . Q . N . N . A. Star between two figures of Victory,
each holding a laurel; in the exergue T . R . P.

Ditto; a heart instead of the star, and the exergue T R S.

Ditto; the letter M. } in the place of the heart or star.

Ditto; a tree,

FL . IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB . C. *rev.* GLORIA
EXERCITVS. Two signa militaria between two soldiers, each
holding a scutum and pilum. The letters in the exergue not
legible. A.D. 340.

Ditto; the letters in the exergue being S L C.

Ditto; with only one signum militare, charged with a patera,
and the letters in the exergue C O N S T.

CONSTANTIVS AVG. *rev.* GLORIA EXERCITAS. One
signum militare, charged with P between two soldiers as before.

CONSTANTINOPOLIS *rev.* Victory standing on the prow of a ship, holding in her right hand a spear, and resting her left on a shield; exergue T R P.

VRBS ROMA . *rev.* Lups. suckling Romulus and Remus; above two stars; exergue P L C.

(See illustration of this coin, Plate III., No. 11.)

Ditto; the letters T R S.

Ditto; the letters T R S. with a star.

Ditto; with three stars above; and exergue S . CONST.

Ditto; a laurel between two stars above; exergue T R S.

FL . MAGNENTIVS P . F . AVG. *rev.* VICTORIAE D . D . N . N . AVG . ET . CAE. Two figures of Victory supporting a shield, charged with VOT . V . MVLT X., above it a symbol. A.D. 353.

Ditto without the symbol, there are letters in the exergue but not legible.

DN . MAGNEVTIVS P . F . AVG. *rev.* GLORIA ROMANORVM.—A soldier on horseback; in his right hand a pilum, in his left a scutum, riding over military spoil to strike an enemy, who is thrown on his back and supplicating mercy; in the *exergue* A M B — N B. Between the head of the three last is the letter A.

This concludes the list given by Glover. There are 37 coins, 19 of which are of the Constantines; and so far as we know at present, the coins of this family have been found in greatest numbers at Little Chester. There are also a number of Causarius. Mr. Mottram has six or seven, but mostly much defaced and corroded, and they are of the 3rd Brass; but the Causarius we engrave is of 2nd B. It is not a very good specimen, being much worn and obliterated in parts; but it is the best we have been able to get. It belongs to Mr. Tyson, East Street. We will now go on to describe those we have been able to add to the list up to the present time. Some of the best will be found illustrated on the three plates which accompany this list.

JVNO SOSPITA.—Bust, horned to right, a symbol at back,

but is indistinct. *Rev.*—a griffin, also to right. The name of the Moneyer, L. PAPI, is worn off. Struck B.C. 81. Plate I., No. 1. (Mr. Salt.)

This is a silver coin—*denarius*—of the Roman Republic, and is a *serrata nummi*, so called from having the edges notched. This was done to consular coins to prevent forgery, by showing that they were silver all through. But this was imitated by the forgers, who plated them over, after they had first made the serrations.* Juno was a universally worshipped goddess among the Romans; and the consuls when entering upon office had to offer a solemn sacrifice to her. *Sospita*, one of her numerous names, relates to her power to preserve from danger, and to give health. The date of this coin takes us back to the dictatorship of Sylla, with whom was associated Pompey, afterwards called the Great. In B.C. 60 the first triumvirate of Rome was formed in the persons of Cæsar, Pompey, and Crassus. In B.C. 55 Cæsar's first invasion of Great Britain took place.

TIBERIVS CÆSAR.—(TI . C)AESAR . DIVI . AVG(VSTVS) . F(ILII) . AVG(VSTVS).—Bust to right, laurelled. *Rev.*—Britannia looking to right, holding a trident in right hand. PONTIF(EX) . MAXIM(VS).—Tiberius Cæsar Augustus, the son of the deified Augustus). A.D. 14; reigned 22 years. Plate I., No. 2. (Mr. Salt.)

This also is silver—a *denarius*; and according to Canon Farrar, is the coin brought to our Lord when he said, "Show me the tribute money." Tiberias had assumed the title of Pontifex Maximus, as had been done by his predecessors in the Empire. This was the title of the chief of the ministers of religion. There were originally four *Pontifices*, afterwards they were raised to eight; then by Sylla to fifteen. They were divided into *Majores* and *Minores*, and the whole number together were called *Collegium*. This title of Pontifex Maximus is still that of the Popes of Rome.

Besides this title, Tiberius had also that of Augustus. This title was first conferred on Cæsar Octavius, adopted son of Julius

* Pinkerton, vol. I., p. 70.



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2.



3.



4.



5.

ROMAN COINS FOUND IN STRUTT'S PARK, DERBY.

Cæsar, who first annexed Britain to the Roman Empire; and it continued to be used by all the Emperors, and Cæsar then became the title of the second person in the State; or, as we should call him, the heir presumptive.

The heritage to which this Tiberius, adopted son of the first Augustus, succeeded, placed in his hand the power of all the then known world, of all that was richest and fairest, untold wealth, unlimited power. Of all this he was the deified ruler and high priest; but he gave himself up to the most unrestrained self-gratification in the island of Capræ, and we are told by Pliny*, that, writing to the Senate, he gave expression to his feelings in these remarkable words:—"What to write to you, Conscript-Fathers, or how to write, or what not to write, may all the gods and goddesses destroy me, more than I feel that they are daily destroying me, if I know." Tiberius, A.D. 37, on 16th March, was suffocated by order of Macrobius, one of his favourites, at the age of 78.

These two silver coins are the property of Mr. M. Salt, of Buxton, and were found together, with 80 or 90 others, in making a road through the lower part of Strutt's Park, where they had been buried in a vase.

NERO. CLAVD. CÆSAR (defaced, but probably DRVSVS. GERM . PRINCE . IVVENT).—Bust looking to left head, laureated. *Rev.*—A seated, partially draped figure, head rayed, holding up right hand, and in left holds a branch. Legend—(SECVRITAS) AVGVSTI, inscribed S . C . *Exergue* worn out. Plate I., No. 3. (Mr. Shaw.)

This coin is of a fine pale brass, much worn and corroded. It is one of the Strutt's Park coins—1st brass, a sestertius.

This Emperor has the character of having been little better than a savage, or wild beast; and contrived to cram into his short life of 32 years more atrocities than any other man up to his time had imagined. He ordered Seneca to be bled to death, and killed his second wife, Poppea, by a kick, and had previously caused his

* Farrar's "Life of Christ," p. 106.

first to be murdered ; he had his own mother put to death, and is credited with setting Rome on fire, and playing on a violin while he watched the blaze. He then had the audacity to lay the crime on the Christians of Rome, whom he had seized, and many of them were sewn up in skins of beasts and thrown to the dogs ; while others were put into pitched sacks, and set up in his gardens to illuminate, by being set on fire at night. The Apostles Peter and Paul are said to have been put to death by him. So odious did he become, that his subjects sentenced him to be thrown from the Tarpeian rock, a fate he escaped by committing suicide.

(IMP . CAES . VESPA)SIAN . AVG . COS(VII).—Bust to right, head laureated. *Rev.*—A temple with six columns (Capitol) ; in the middle, Jupiter between Juno and Minerva ; on the pediment several figures. 2nd brass. The whole much corroded and difficult to decipher. Plate I., fig. 4 ; A.D. 69 to 79. (Mr. Shaw.)

Vespasian was a man of humble lineage, not of an ambitious disposition ; but his mother, having more of this property, used it to urge on her son to seek for distinction, which seems to have succeeded. When Nero ascended the throne, he sent Vespasian into Africa as pro-consul. He does not appear to have been a great success in that office there. Afterwards he went with Nero into Greece. He, however, was too honest to pretend to admire Nero's fine voice, on which he prided himself, either leaving the room or else going to sleep. This did not please the Emperor, and he banished him from court, but almost immediately despatched him to Jerusalem. He was more successful there, for in A.D. 71 he was honoured with a triumph in company with his son Titus, for the conquest of Judea and destruction of Jerusalem. He closed the Temple of Janus, and erected a magnificent one to Peace, which he dedicated in the fifth year of his government, and placed in it the sacred vessels brought from the Temple, furnishing it with all the most precious treasures of art known, brought from all parts of Europe and Asia. In A.D. 74 he made a census of the Roman people, and from the remarks of Pliny, it may be assumed that the average length of human life

has not diminished since that time, though possibly it has seldom been exceeded, supposing the statistics to be correct; for instance between the Po and the Apennines there were found 54 persons 100 years old—fourteen were 110; two were 125; four were 130; four were 135 to 137; and three 140.

In character this Emperor was eminently mild and moderate. He was a great lover of simplicity, and he was not easily provoked, saying on one occasion when Demetrius, the cynic, had done his best to vex him, "Thou dost all thou canst to make me take thy life, but I do not kill dogs merely because they bark." He was a great patron of art and letters, and though he is said to have been avaricious, Tacitus said of him that he was the first instance of a man becoming a better man on obtaining supreme power. However this may have been, he certainly is not accused of spending money on himself; it all went to friends and towards the embellishment of Rome; he restored the Capitol, and the Temple of Jupiter, built the Temple of Peace, and laid the foundations of the Coliseum. He was as great an economist of time as of money, continuing to perform all the duties of his office up to his last hour. He died on 24th June, A.D. 79, aged 70.

HADRIANVS . AVG . COS . III . P . P.—Bust looking to right; head laureated; *rev.* a figure of Justice draped, and holding in right hand a balance, and in left a staff. Legend—ÆQVITAS . AVG . inscribed S. C. Nothing visible on *Exergue*. A.D. 117; reigned 20 years, from August 11th, 117, to July 2nd, 138. 1st Brass. Plate I., No. 5, Mr. Lichfield. Some *reverses* of Hadrian in 1st Brass have a Britannia, but we do not know of a Derbyshire example.

Hadrian built the wall known by his name, extending from mouth of the Tyne, near Newcastle, to Solway Firth, according to some; but only from the river Eden in Northumberland to the Tyne, according to others; the difference in distance is considerable, being in the former case 80 miles, in the latter 8 miles. He built this wall on coming to Britain A.D. 120, in order to prevent the incursions of the Northern barbarians. Hadrian

was a learned and accomplished man. He made a complete circuit of all his provinces, and his coins have been found to have upon them no less than 20 provinces. Visiting Jerusalem, he caused the city to be restored, and built a temple to Jupiter Capitolinus on site of Solomon's, and caused a marble swine to be placed there, and heathen divinities in sacred places. He first adopted Ælius Verus to be his successor, but that prince dying suddenly, he then chose Antoninus, on 25th February, 138, which was the last year of Hadrian's reign. The malady he suffered from was dropsy, and his sufferings were very great, so much so that he at one time desired to be put to death. In his last hours he composed the well-known lines, "Hadrian's Address to his Soul," which have been translated as follows:—

"Poor little, pretty, fluttering thing,
 Must we no longer live together?
 And dost thou prune thy trembling wing,
 To take thy flight thou know'st not whither?
 Thy humorous vein, thy pleasing folly,
 Lie all neglected, all forgot,
 And passive, wav'ring, melancholy
 Thou dread'st, and hop'st thou know'st not what?"

Taken in the light of the age in which he lived, and compared with those that preceded him, the character of Hadrian stands out favourably. He was evidently a man of great mental power, and there is much in him to admire; though he was not altogether free from the cruelty which seems to have been incident to a Roman Emperor.

The legend on this coin is of the date between A.D. 119 to 138. Hadrian is remarkable as being the first Roman Emperor that wore a beard; before his time they were all smoothly shaven.* His accomplishments were many and various, and several of his great works remain, such as his temple and the bridge of St. Angelo. (This coin is in possession of Mr. Lichfield.)

ANTONINVS . PIV . AVG. Bust to right, draped, head

* "Decline and Fall of Rome," p. 109.

laureated; *rev.* FVNDATOR PACIS. A male figure to left, veiled and draped, holding an olive branch in right hand, and a small scroll (?) in left, a *denarius*, silver or electrum? A good specimen.

. . . A.D. 138 to 161. Plate II. No. 1. (Mr. Mottram.) There are *reverses* of Antoninus in 1st and 2nd Brass with the Britannia, but we know of no example from Little Chester at present.

This Emperor was adopted by Hadrian to succeed him; it was a fortunate choice. Antoninus was a man in every way estimable, he was wise, liberal, and in his habits temperate; he cared little for the pomp and ceremony of State. It is related of him that on an occasion when Marcus Aurelius, who, at the request of Hadrian, was being brought up to succeed him in the Empire, shed tears at the untimely death of one of his school fellows, Antoninus said: "Suffer him to weep, for neither the wisdom of a sage nor the dignity of a prince requires us to eradicate the feelings of a man." His clemency and the excellence of his disposition gained for him early in his reign that enviable title by which he is distinguished, that of *Pius*, a title appropriated by many of his less worthy successors. He died at the advanced age of 75 years, in the 23rd year of his reign, A.D. 161. There was a rebellion of the Brigantes who inhabited Northumberland, which was soon repressed; and a wall to keep out the more Northern invaders was extended from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde; otherwise his reign was peaceable on the whole. This Emperor was a very tall, handsome man.

(IMP . C.M. AVR. . . . CA)RINUS . P.P. A.V.G. Bust to right, head crowned, *rev.*, a nude figure with helmet, in right hand a caduceus, and in left a vine tendril. M. La C. de Bentinck describes this *reverse* as a victory, having a curious bonnet resembling that of Mercury, and an ornament at side *tout aussi peu usité*. VICTORIA . AVG, inscription A. 3rd Brass, A.D. 282—284. (Mr. Williams). Plate II., No. 7.

IMP . CARAVSIVS . P.F . AVG. Bust to right, head crowned. *Rev.* a draped figure to left holding an augural staff, right hand held up, legend indistinct . . . AVG. Inscription

S.P. (?) *exergue* MIXX(1). 2nd Brass. A.D. 287 to 298. Plate II., No. 8.

Carausius usurped the imperial office in Britain. He was a sailor, who had been appointed to keep the English Channel free of the Saxon freebooters, with whom he allied himself and shared the plunder. He was ordered to be killed by Maximianus and Diocletian, who suspected him on finding him becoming suddenly wealthy ; but he discovered the design, and having the soldiers in Britain on his side, he joined an alliance with the Franks and Saxons, and together they kept possession of the English Channel, and extended his dominion. He so firmly established his position that they resigned into his hands the power he had usurped, and acknowledged him as one of the Emperors. His administration is said to have been more vigorous than wise or clement. He kept in check the Caledonians on the North, and restored the wall of Severus ; but was tyrannical and licentious, as one would imagine from his portrait here given. He held his power in Britain from A.D. 287 to 293, when he is said to have been assassinated by Allectus, his Prime Minister, who assumed the purple ; but only for a short time. Constantinus had determined to bring Britain again under the Roman Government, and sent Asclepiodatus with a squadron, who landed in Kent or Sussex, while he in person threatened the capital and fruitful shores of the Thames. The result was for Constantinus a complete victory. Allectus was slain, and everywhere the Cæsar was received with acclamation. This was in the year A D. 296. So Constantinus, called Chlorus because of some peculiarity in his complexion, completely recovered Britain, and placed it again under imperial protection.

A number of coins of Carausius have been found at Little Chester. A *reverse* of one has a figure to right with a spear, up which a serpent is creeping, and with the left puts something into the mouth of a serpent. Legend SALVT. AVG. (Motttram.)

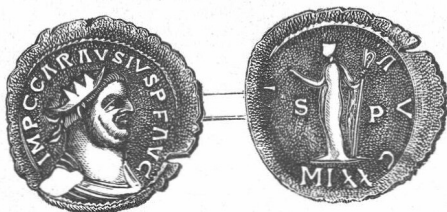
MAXIMINVS . PI . AVG. Known as Maximinus Hercules. Bust to right, head laureated, wears Imperial robe. *rev.* GENIO . POP . ROM. *exergue* P.L.T., the Genius semi-draped to left,



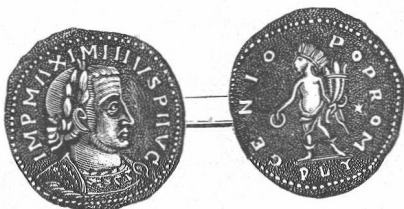
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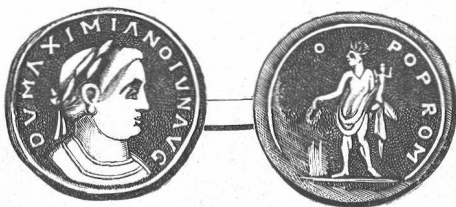
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ROMAN COINS FOUND AT LITTLE CHESTER, DERBY.

head rayed, holds in left hand a cornucopia, and in right a wreath or ring. This is an excellent specimen, and belongs Mr. Williams, 2nd Brass, A.D. 235 to 278. Plate II., No. 9.

This Emperor appears to have been of the hero type, a man of immense strength. His height exceeded eight feet, and his strength and appetite were in proportion. He consumed forty pounds of flesh and seven gallons of wine in his daily meals; but, as he is not in any especial way mentioned in connection with Britain, we pass him by.

D.V. MAXIMIANO . IVN . AVG. Bust to right, head laureated. *Rev.*, a figure standing looking to left, holds in left hand a cornucopia, and in right a wreath, (GENI)O . POP . ROM. A very much worn coin of 2nd Brass, A.D. 286 to 309, known as Galerius Maximianus.

He was associated with Diocletian and Maximian in the imperial government; the latter, having fruitlessly endeavoured to reduce Carausius to order in the usual way, patched up a peace by recognising him as the Roman Cæsar in Britain. About this time the name of Constantinus begins to appear, and he was adopted by Maximian, and to more closely unite him to the imperial families he desired him to put away his wife, Helena—the mother of Constantine the Great—to make way for Theodora, his step-daughter; and to Constantinus was intrusted the protection of Greece, Spain, and Britain. At this time the Empire had four rulers, Diocletian being recognised by the other three—Maximian, Constantinus, and Galerius—as the superior; indeed, if we admit Carausius, there were five, as he was certainly vested with the imperial power for ten years in Britain. It was in the calends of March, A.D. 292, that the three Cæsars were installed in their high office, and immediately after Constantinus hastened to get rid of the usurper Carausius, as has been already related. About A.D. 305, the two Emperors, Diocletian and Maximian, resigned the imperial power to their adopted sons, Galerius and Constantinus. Diocletian died at his palace of Spalatro, in 313, and his adopted son, the Maximianus Galerius of our coin, died

in May, A.D. 311. Maximian is said to have committed suicide A.D. 309 or 310. (Mottram.) Plate II., No. 10.

We will take now the coins of Rome and Constantinople, of which several have been found at Little Chester, and one or two fairly good examples have been lent to us by Messrs. Mottram and Williams.

VRBS . ROMA . Bust helmeted to left, wears imperial robes ; *rev.*, Lups suckling Romulus and Remus, two stars above ; in *exergue* P . L . G . preceded by a star. 3rd Brass. Time of Constantine the Great. Plate III., No. 11.

CONSTANTINOPOLIS . Bust to left, with helmet wreathed, wears imperial robe and sceptre on left shoulder ; *rev.*, Victory standing on prow of a ship to left, left-hand rests on a shield, and right holds a sceptre ; in *exergue* T . A . P . Plate III., No. 12. (Mottram.)

Another of this coin, but not from same die. (Mr. Williams). Imperfect.

Another of same, but *rev.* is not quite same. (Mr. Longbottom).

Another of same. (Longbottom).

CONSTANTINOPILO . Bust to right, helmet, &c. ; *rev.* (BE) ATI . TRAN (QUILITAS). An altar with globe, on front R . T . IS . XX . ; in *exergue* P T R . Not a good coin ; is much worn. Plate III., No. 13. (Williams).

CONSTANTIUS . NOB . CAE . Bust, looking right, laureated and in imperial robes. (Constantius Chlorus, A.D. 292 to 306). *Rev.*, two standards with wreath between, on each side a Roman soldier with shields and spears, right-hand holds spear, left rests on shield. Plate III., No. 14. (Mr. Lee).

Another similar, bust, head to right ; but all much worn ; *rev.*, a standard between two soldiers, with shields and spears ; legend worn off. (Williams).

Constantius Chlorus was father of Constantine the Great. He was adopted as his successor by Maximian, who, together with his co-Emperor Diocletian, retired in favour



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ROMAN COINS FOUND AT LITTLE CHESTER, DERBY.

of the young men they had each selected for the purple; thus Constantius was associated with Galerius, in the imperial power; he arrived in Britain in 305, and died at York 306, in the month of July. He was succeeded by his son, Constantine the Great.

IMP . CONSTANTINVS . PF . AVG. Bust to right, draped, head wreathed; *rev.*, the same, standing, the right-arm elevated, the left holds a globe; nude, except a mantle hangs from left shoulder; legend, SOLI . INVICTO . COMITI . inscribed T . F . ; a star under T on right; *exergue* C . A . R . L ., A.D. 323 to 337. 3rd brass. Plate III., No. 16. (Mr. Lee).

This Emperor succeeded in re-uniting the whole Roman empire under one head forty years after Diocletian's new scheme of government, which admitted a plurality of sovereigns. It was in A.D. 324 that this consummation was effected.* During the period of peace which ensued, he resolved to form a new capital. This was no new idea, for Julius Cæsar had before his death desired to form a new capital at Troy or Alexandria, so Constantine fixed on ancient Byzantium as being excellent for situation, and there, at prodigious expense and labour, he raised a new city. Six hundred centenaries, about £2,500,000, was expended on the erection of walls, porticos, and aqueducts; in it there was a capitol or school of learning, a circus, two theatres, eight public and 153 private baths, fifty-two porticos, five granaries, eight aqueducts or reservoirs of water, four spacious halls, fourteen churches, and the same number of palaces, 4,388 grand houses, etc., so Gibbon relates. This grand city was built, it is said, in consequence of a vision; Constantine was one who saw visions. It is related by Eusebius that he saw a vision as he was marching from France into Italy against Maxentius, and desiring the help of the gods, fixed upon the God of the Christians, whom he importuned, and it

* "Decline and Fall of Rome," p. 345.

is said that while marching with his forces in the afternoon, the trophy of the cross appeared very luminous in the heavens, brighter than the sun, with this inscription, "Conquer by this." Pondering over this event till night, Christ appeared to him in his sleep, with the same sign, and directed him to make use of it as his military ensign.* This was done, and the sign was placed on the imperial standards; we have an example of it on a coin of Valentinianus, of which an illustration is given, Plate III. It is known as the *labarum*. Constantine died after a reign of thirty years, in his 64th year, May 22, A.D. 337.

CONSTANTINVS . AVG. (THE GREAT). Bust laureated, head to right; *rev.*, a figure of Victory, with one foot resting on a captive. Legend, (SAR)M(A)TIA . INVICTA. Not a very good example. 3rd Brass. Plate III. No. 17.

The Sarmatians were a savage race, who, by their hostility to their neighbours, the Goths, and others, were at last reduced to the necessity of applying to Constantine for protection. He incorporated a number of them into his legions, and assigned settlements to the remainder in various parts of the empire. The military armour of these people must have been curious; the cuirass was made of thin plates sliced from the hoofs of horses, and sewed one upon another; this, with a short dagger, a spear, and arrows pointed with poisoned fish bone, rendered them troublesome antagonists, mounted as they were on powerful horses.

CRISPVS . NOB . CAES. Bust, draped and laureated, looking to right; *rev.*, an altar with a palm wreath on front, above it another, in centre of which is VOT.; on each side winged figures making an offering. The legend appears to read: VICTORIA . ILLVSTRIORIS . CAES. The letters are a good deal battered, but this is no doubt the reading. Plate II. No. 18. (Mr. Mottram.)

This Cæsar was son of Constantine the Great, by Minervina, his first wife; but through the false accusations of Faustina,

* Milner's "Church History," p. 209.

his step-mother, his death was brought about somehow, but whether by assassination or poison is not clear. It appears the matter of the accusation was cleared up through the influence of Helena, the aged mother of Constantine, and he afterwards, it is said, erected a statue to his memory of silver and gold, inscribed, "My son, unjustly condemned." This is the St. Helen who is said to have found the true Cross at Jerusalem.

CONSTANTINVS . IV . NB . C . (Constantine II.) Bust to right, with a wreath or fillet, a military dress ; legend, GLOR . IN . EXERCITYS ; *rev.*, two military standards, with a symbol between them ; on each side a soldier holding shield and spear ; *exergue*, PCONST. Plate III. No. 14. (Mr. Lee.)—M. Cohen, tome 5, pp. 263-4, remarking on these letters, says, "CONST : a part of the coins with CONS or CONST ought to be attributed to the town of Arles, which took at this period the name of Constantine, and the four workmen or coiners, who had for *exergue* P. Const, Q. Const. We find this change at the end of Constantine's reign, under Constantine II. and his two brothers. Under Magnentius and Decentius the name of Arles was restored ; from Julius II. to Theodosius I. the town re-took the name Constantine."

This coin is a Constantine II. ; his imperial seat was at Constantinople, and he had for his share, on the division of the empire—which took place on the death of his father, between the three brothers—Gaul, Spain, Britain, and Africa. About three years after this division, he being dissatisfied, tried to get from his brother Constans part of Italy ; but the latter took up arms against him, and the result was that Constantine, the elder brother, was slain, and his body thrown into the river Elsa, a short distance from Aquileia, but was afterwards recovered and buried at Constantinople, near his father, Constantine the Great. Constans now became master of above two-thirds of the Roman Empire. This was in A.D. 340 ; but ten years after, Magnentius (Plate III., No. 15) determined to wrest the government from him, and, having brought about the assassination of Constans, he

usurped the government. The third brother, Constantius, was then at Antioch, and on hearing of his brother's death, he, of course, claimed the empire of the west. Magnentius sent ambassadors to meet him, and tried to negotiate with him, so as to be a participant in the government, promising to recognise Constantius as the head. The latter deferred his answer till next day. He then said that during the night he had seen a vision; his father, Constantine the Great, had appeared to him, and, presenting the body of Constans, had warned him to revenge his death, and he felt that in so just a cause his success was secured. After various reverses, Magnentius was driven to extremities, and put himself to death by falling on his sword, on Aug. 10, 359.* The Britons fell in for a share of the anger of Constantius, and Martinus, the vice-prefect of the island, interposed to defend the innocent from the false accusations of Paulus Catena, a bad man who had been sent to wreak vengeance on the islanders; but, not succeeding, buried his weapon in his own breast. This Emperor, on visiting Rome A.D. 356, caused the obelisk brought by his father from the Temple of the Sun, at Heliopolis, to be erected. It now stands in the square opposite the church of St. John Lateran. During the concluding years of his reign he was associated in the government with Julian, who afterwards succeeded him. Constantinus died at Monsucrene, in Cilicia, on Nov. 3, 361, A.D.

Another coin of this Emperor, head to right, wreathed; legend, F.L . P F . CONSTANTINVS . NO . AVG; *rev.*, same as before. (Williams.)

Another, head to left; *rev.*, a wreath, in centre VOT . CXXJ.; legend, CÆSARVM . NOSTRORVM. (Mr. Longbottom.)

Another appears to be the same, but has been attributed to Const. Chlorus. This, however, is doubtful. (Lee.)

M. Cohen says the whole of the coins having on *reverse* GLORIA . EXERCITVS . no matter under what Emperor struck, are of a smaller diameter, or *little bronze*, and approach

* "Decline and Fall of Rome," p. 864.

those of the Quinaria ; in number, they are sometimes even less than they.*

Another, with same legend, but instead of the head being wreathed it has a twisted fillet ; *rev.* has the legend, PROVIDENTIA . AVG, a gate of a camp, with tripods and balls at top, between which is a star ; on each side A . S., *exergue*, SHANT. Plate III. No. 19. (Lee.)

Another, same legend, gate of camp, etc. ; but the head is older, and the things on the top of the gate are square, not tripod-shaped. (Lee.)

D . N . MAGNENTIVS . PF . AVG. Bust in military dress, head to right, no wreath, A at back of head ; *rev.* a warrior on horseback, charging with his spear at a man before him, kneeling on one knee, and holding up hands in supplicating attitude. On the ground are the shield and broken spear of the man ; legend, (GLOR)IA . ROMANORVM. ; *exergue* . DLG. There are four letters ; the first is only partly on, and cannot be made out. Magnentius was a usurper during the times of the Constantines ; he died by his own hand A.D. 359. Britain was part of his dominion. (Plate III. No. 15.)

D . N . VALENTINIANVS . P . F . AVG. Bust in military dress, head to right, wreathed ; *rev.* a draped figure, standing, holding in left hand the labarum of Constantine P_{\times} , right hand rests on the head of a captive ; inscription is O . F . II. ; legend GLORIA . ROMANORVM. The head of this figure appears to be that of an ass ; it may, however, be intended for Anubis ; if so, it is a dog's head, but it looks like the representation on Plate III., No. 20. (Mr. Longbottom.)

There were three emperors of this name ; this is the second of the name. He was associated with Gratianus. The first was Valentinian, who was chief in command over the legions in Britain from 340 to 370 A.D. Affairs here were unsatisfactory, through the Picts, Scots, and a number of Scandinavians making incursions. This at last became unbearable, and Theodosius was sent to quell

the disturbance. This he was successful in doing. He recovered back from them the level country between the Tweed and Forth, and gave to it the name of Valentia, and for the time effected peace. This emperor died in a fit of rage, 17 Nov., A.D. 375; reigned 12 years. The coin we reproduce does not happen to be one of his reign, but is that of the second, Valentinianus II. In his reign the revolt of Maximus took place in Britain. He appears to have been very popular, for a large colony of Britons, numbering 130,000 males and above 70,000 females, followed him over the channel, and so originated the province of Brittany. Valentinianus II. died, or, it is supposed, was strangled by Arbogastes, in A.D. 392. The third of the name was permitted to assume the title of Augustus when only six years of age, on the death of his uncle Honorius, 425 A.D.; but, as this emperor is not so intimately associated with events in Britain, we need not trace him further, especially as we have no coin of his reign. He was assassinated at Rome in 455. We may mention, though, that in the reign of his uncle Honorius a revolt took place in Britain, and a private soldier named Constantine was raised to the throne of Britain and Gaul. He crossed over into Gaul in 408 A.D., and, after a varied fortune, came to his end by assassination, A.D. 411.



“The three circlets of lead, which are here engraved after the exact size and pattern of the originals, were found in a garden at Little Chester, near Derby, close to the remains of the Roman wall. They were at no great depth, and with them were coins, bits of pottery, and other small relics. They each weigh forty-eight grains. Can they be weights? So far they have puzzled

several good Roman antiquaries, who look upon them as unique. Can any of our readers furnish an explanation, or offer any probable conjecture?"—This query appeared in the January issue of the *Antiquary*, and has already brought forth the following reply from Mr. Charles T. Phillips, the hon. secretary of the Sussex Archæological Society, who writes:—

“In this month’s issue of *Antiquary* is a Note of three circlets of lead found in a garden at Little Chester, near Derby, with coins, bits of pottery, and other small relics, close to the remains of the Roman wall, and explanation or probable conjecture, from any reader, is asked for. My suggestions must be taken as wholly conjectural. Could they have been *Bale Marks*, such as in medieval and more recent times were used by traders and merchants for identification, or warranty, of their goods, and of which we have a few in our museum, stamped with letters or trade marks?

“Or are they seals, stamped with marks, and not letters (and, as I presume from the engravings given, *on one side only*), somewhat similar to those in the York Museum, and described thus in the Handbook, page 104 (Roman Relics):—‘*Case J. F.* Seven lead seals, found at Brough, in Westmoreland, six of which were given by the Rev. Dr. Simpson, of Kirkby Stephen, in 1880. Very large quantities of them have been found there. They are stamped *on both sides* with letters, and are supposed to have been given to recruits.’?”

“Though found with Roman relics, it is just possible they are of later date.

“Could they be ‘Dumps’? though whether the noble Roman youths indulged in such an ignoble game, I must leave to the mature judgment of better archæologists than I can ever aspire to be.

“Or can they be counters for games, like our Draughts or Backgammon?”