


## Roman and other Coins found at Little Chester; with Historical Notes, etc.

BY GEORGE BAILEY.

INCE writing on this subject two years ago, Vol. XIII., p. 108, when we promised a supplementary article, a few additional specimens have been lent to us.

Very imperfect and battered though they most of them are, we shall offer no apology for bringing them under the notice of the readers of this Journal; because the fact that engravings of them are given on the accompanying plates may be the means of fully deciphering them eventually, or they will, we hope, be a help in the decipherment of others. We have little doubt that good examples of all exist, but the difficulty now is to ascertain in whose possession they are, and even though we could, the probabilities are that the owners would not be able to say with anything like certainty whether they came from Little Chester or elsewhere in the county.

We give sketches of four coins lent to us by Mr. Shaw, of College Place; they are of the Strutt's Park find, and would have been described in the former article, only that it was found that time would not allow of their being sufficiently studied so as to enable us to say anything very definite about them, because they are all of them very much corroded, and the images upon them difficult to decipher; and even now we are obliged to confess that we can only speak of them uncertainly, though we have had the valuable assistance of the authorities of the British Museum; yet, under the circumstances, we feel that we have done our best,

*The two following Derbyshire fines have been recently discovered by Mr. W. Boyd among the fines for Lincolnshire. They follow the series at p. 204, in the seventh volume of this Journal.*

1208. Derby. Monday next before the Feast of S. Edmund, anno  
10 K. John.

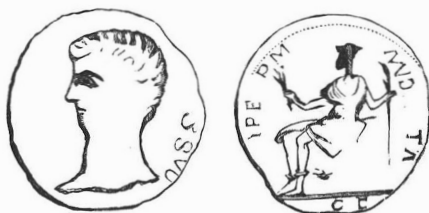
November. Between **Adam**, son of **Mauger**, *Plaintiff*, and **Robert**,  
son of **David**, *Tenant*, of 2 bovates of land, with the  
appurtenances in Calvoure.

Wherefore the Assize of Death of Ancestor was summoned  
between them in the same court. That is to say, that the afore-  
said Robert hath acknowledged and granted all the aforesaid land  
to be the right of the said Adam, to have and to hold to him and  
to his heirs, together with the culture which lies at **Wistan**, and  
with the whole meadow which lies in **Gackesmit**, of the said  
Robert and his heirs for ever, by the free service of 28*d.* by the  
year. And for this acknowledgment, &c., Adam quit-claimed to  
the said Robert and his heirs the whole right which he had in two  
cultures in the aforesaid vill, *i.e.*, a culture which lies upon the  
**Peak** ("Pecus") and in a certain meadow which lies in  
**Silvercroft** for ever.

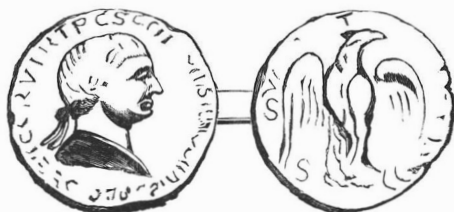
1208. Derby. Wednesday next before the feast of S. Edmund,  
November. 10 John.

Between **William Basset** and **Matilda** his wife, *Plaintiffs*,  
and **Henry**, *Prior of Turgarton*, *Deforciant*, of the  
advowson of the **Church of Langwath**.

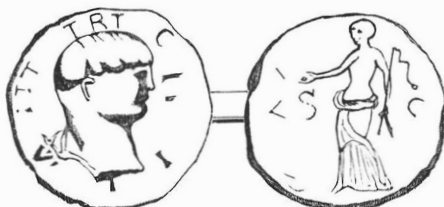
William and Matilda acknowledged the said advowson to be the  
right of the Prior and of his church of **Turgaton**, and for this  
acknowledgment, &c., the Prior granted to the said William and  
Matilda that after the decease of **Reginald, son of Master  
Silvester**, who is parson of the said church, they can present  
three parsons, and after the decease of the aforesaid three parsons  
the said church shall remain quit of the said William and Matilda  
and their heirs to the said prior and his successors for ever.



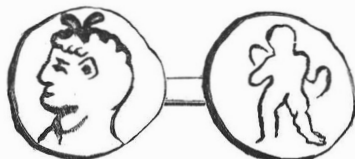
1.



2.

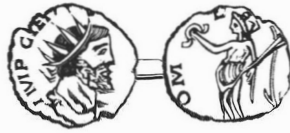


3.

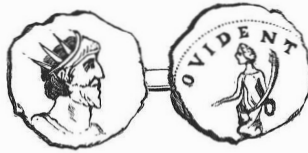


4.

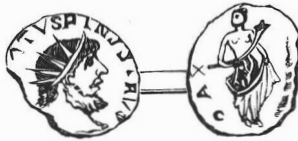
ROMAN COINS FOUND IN STRUTT'S PARK.



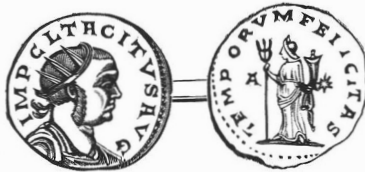
5.



6.

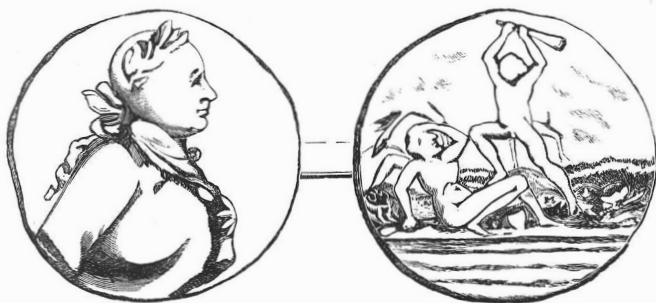


7.

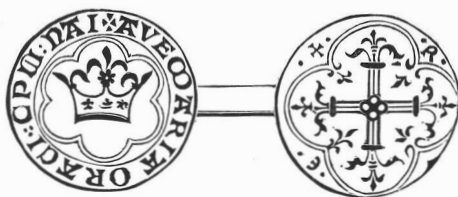


8.

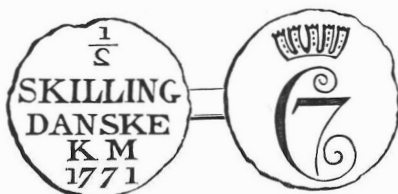
ROMAN COINS FROM LITTLE CHESTER.



1.



2.



3.



4.

and there we must be content to leave them. They are thought to be coins of Caligula, Vitellius, and Vespasian; as for the fourth, we cannot assign either name or date for it; the coin has been a pretty one, and has evidently been obliterated by wear more than by corrosion. In addition to these, we have a number of Chester coins, lent by Mr. A. Ellis, of St. Peter's Street, some of which are here engraved, though they are much broken and corroded. We know, however, when they were found, and are able to give the dates; of these there are eight coins, but two are undecipherable. They were found in 1875 and 1878.

We have now to call attention to what is not a little curious, though it is of almost everyday occurrence. Most people know that very often when they are looking for one thing, they find something else they were not expecting to find. And so it has happened at Little Chester. Quite a number of odds and ends have been turned up, together with Roman coins, and we give here some illustrations which will most likely interest a number of our readers, though they, like the coins, are much worn, and in one or two instances nearly obliterated. The largest of these (Plate III., Fig. 1) is a copper medal, having on the obverse the bust of a gentleman in military dress, who wears a peruke, and his head has been encircled by a wreath, and there appears to be a star or some kind of order on the breast; but so far, no clue has been found as to who he was, or for what commemoration the medal was struck. The reverse has remains of a vigorous battle, naked men fighting with clubs, and remains of horses, but their riders and nearly all the contour of the horses are worn smooth, and only a leg remains here and there to show there had been horses at all. A long inscription under this battle scene has been so filed that it is now quite obliterated. We sent this medal to the late S. S. Lewis, Esq., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He thought the date might be the middle of the past century, and said the head had a strong family likeness to King George II., but he could not certainly identify it. We shall be glad if any of our readers will kindly say if any similar medal has come under their observation. Mr. Lewis at first thought this medal had

some satirical allusion to the Duke of Cumberland, who conquered at Culloden, but he abandoned the idea on further consideration. Next we have one of the coins often found in churches and churchyards (Plate III., Fig. 2), when the soil has been turned up for restorations or other purposes, known as coffin money. These coins are of brass, and usually very thin, and it must be said they are generally of excellent design. There was most likely a small ornament under the crown, but we were unable to make out what—probably a cross or a flower. The late F. J. Robinson, the architect, had several similar coins which had come into his possession in the course of his professional duties, and recently two of these coins came to light at Worthington Church. One of them we saw. It was a Nuremberg token, but had evidently been used for the same purpose as that we here engrave. Then we have a Danish coin of thin brass, also figured (Plate III., Fig. 3), and next, oddly enough, a token or medal having a good head of her present Majesty, and on the reverse a very spirited representation of a soldier on horseback riding over a dragon or some such beast, with the legend "TO HANOVER." There is part of a date 183 , quite plain, but the fourth numeral flattened so as to be undecipherable. It looks like a 1, or 1831. It is of copper, and has the edges milled. Can it have been a spurious sovereign? The Rev. C. Kerry suggests that it may be 1837, the year of the Queen's accession; if so, the die has been struck by someone *adverse* to the House of Hanover. The design is excellent (Plate III., Fig. 4). There were also the three small leaden circlets, of which an illustration was given in the previous article, with some remarks upon them by Dr. Cox. No satisfactory *raison d'être* has yet been found for them. We now proceed to give a continuation of the list of coins, describing them, as far as we are able, and supplying such historical notes as may seem desirable.

First, the coin—thought to be one of Caligula—and the three that follow, were all so much corroded that we are only able to describe them with some hesitation, and we shall be glad to be corrected if we have been misled into an error in the case of any one of them.

CÆIVS CÆSAR AVGVST. called CALIGVLA. Bust looking to left, no legend plain enough to read ; *rev.*, a seated draped figure looking to right, perhaps Vesta holding wheat and a palm. The head appears to be that of a dog, but it may only be through corrosion it has assumed that form. It may, however, be Anubis. Legend quite indistinct, there being only a few disconnected and broken letters.

Caligula received this name because of his habit of wearing in the camp a kind of boot called the *caliga*, the sole of which was thickly studded with hobnails. Examples of these have been recently found at Silchester, and may now be seen in the museum at Reading. The upper leathers have for the most part perished, but the soles, with their hobnails, are perfect. They were discovered, with other Roman relics, in an ashpit. He was the son of Germanicus, by Agrippina, and grandson of Tiberius. His character may be judged of by what historians have related of him. They say he often wished the Roman people had only one head, that he might strike it off at a blow. He caused a favourite horse to be made high-priest and consul, which was kept in marble apartments, adorned with the most valuable trappings and pearls the empire could furnish. This madman was put to death in A.D. 41, in the twenty-ninth year of his age and fourth of his reign (Fig. 1, Plate I.)

VITELLIVS GERMANICVS. Bust to right, head wreathed ; legend indistinct, though many broken letters remain ; *rev.*, an eagle ; legend illegible.

This Emperor, who was a friend of Caligula and his two successors, Claudius and Nero, was proclaimed, at the death of Galba, by the legions he commanded in Lower Germany, in opposition to Otho, whom the Senate and people had elected. He defeated his rival after four battles ; but the people soon tired of his profligacy, and after a reign of about a year they beat him to death. His head was cut off and stuck on a pole, his body being dragged by a hook and thrown into the Tiber, A.D. 69. (Fig. 2, Plate I.)

TITVS FLAVIVS VESPASIAN. Bust looking right ;



legend gone; *rev.*, a female, partially draped, looking left, one hand holds an offering, in the other is a flagellum, S.C.; no legend left.

Another coin of this Emperor was given in Vol. XIII. (Plate I., Fig. 4, p. 116), but it differs very much from this. (Fig. 3, Plate I.)

The next coin, Fig. 4, we know nothing about; perhaps someone will supply a clue to it.

IMP . C . VICTORINVS . P . F . AVG. Head to right, with rayed crown; no legend visible; *rev.*, part of standing female, holding in left hand a cornucopia, the sceptre, reversed, in right is all gone; legend, PR]OVIDENT[IA. (Fig. 6, Plate II.)

There were two of this name, father and son, both so bad that they were assassinated. It is curious to note that there were fourteen usurpers in the reign of Gallienus, all of whom came to a violent end. Victorinus reigned in Gaul, A.D. 267.

IMP . TET[RICVS . P . F . AVG .] Head with rayed crown, looking to right; legend only partly legible; *rev.*, a female standing to left, holds in one hand a crown, in the other an anchor; legend gone except two letters OM and part of another, perhaps E or A, for ROMA.

This Emperor and his son, C . PIVESV . TETRICVS, reigned five or six years in Gaul, but not liking to be slaves of the legions, surrendered to Aurelian, who thus acquired the provinces of Spain, Britain, and Gaul. The two Tetricus were permitted to retain the rank of Senator, and also their property in Rome. They were prominent figures in the triumph of Aurelian, together with Zenobia, queen of Palmyra, A.D. 273. (Fig. 5, Plate II.)

Fig. 7, Plate II., has another head of the same Emperor; there is part of the legend, but it is not clear enough to decipher; *rev.*, a female, partly draped, holds cornucopia in one hand, and supports her robe with other; legend probably PAX, the remainder illegible.

IMP . CL . TACITVS . AVG. Head to right, rayed crown; *rev.*, a female erect, to left holding a long caduceus, in right a

cornucopia ; legend TEMPORVM . FELICITAS . A., and a star on each side. (Fig. 8, Plate II.)

Tacitus succeeded Aurelian, who had been assassinated in March, A.D. 275 ; he was seventy-four years of age when raised to the purple, and he made his age a plea for declining the honour ; this, however, was overruled by the Senate, and much against his will he accepted the offer. His reign was distinguished by moderation and simplicity ; the only indulgence he permitted himself was reading and conversing with literary men. He took great pains to prevent the writings of his ancestor, Tacitus, the historian of Rome, from being lost to posterity, and gave orders that ten copies of them should be transcribed every year, for distribution to the libraries. He reigned about two hundred days, and died at Tyana, in Cappadocia ; but whether by the hand of an assassin or from the fatigue of a campaign in which he was engaged is not clear.

CONSTANTINOPILIS. Two more coins of this city have come to hand, they are not good specimens, and are of small brass. These coins have been described and illustrated in Vol. XIII., Plate III., No. 12.

This brings to an end all we have been able to gather towards a complete list of authentic Roman coins found at Little Chester ; doubtless the list might have been extended very much had we been able to ascertain into whose hands the coins, found in such numbers, have fallen. We are free to confess that very little interest has been excited by our endeavours ; this is perhaps not cause for surprise, since probably no town in England cares less for objects of antiquity than Derby, though a host of writers have of late years been fiddling on this string until it is worn quite through ; still the fact remains, Derby cares nothing for antiquities, but prefers the newest jangle that the craze of the hour presents, "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay !"