

III.

NOTE OF A SCULPTURED ROMAN SLAB RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON
THE ESTATE OF GRANGE, LINLITHGOWSHIRE, AND PRESENTED
TO THE MUSEUM. By HENRY CADELL, OF GRANGE, Esq. (PLATE VII.)

GRANGE, Bo'NESS, *23d January 1869,*

JOHN STUART, Esq.

Secy. of Antiquarian Society, Edinburgh.

DEAR SIR,—As I mentioned to you, I now beg to present to your
Antiquarian Society for the Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, the

Roman Tablet found on my property here in April last, upon condition that you place a stone near the spot where the tablet was found, with an inscription to tell of its being found there, and a copy of the inscription.

The tablet is 9 feet long, nearly 3 feet high, and 8 inches thick, the face having inscription in the middle, "IMP · CAES · TITO · AELIO · HADRI · ANTONINO · AUG · PIO · P · P · LEG · II · AUG · PER · M · P · III · DCL · II · FEC," on each side of which is an alto relievo, that on the left a Roman horseman riding over naked and wounded Britons, that on the right being a sacrificial scene in which a priest is standing beside an altar with the Second Legion Augusta in attendance, and a bull, a sheep, and a pig are being brought forward; on the top edge of the tablet towards the back, and on each end are dovetailed recesses, by which the tablet appears to have been held up.

The tablet was found with its face down in a sloping direction, and broken in three pieces, and had been for a long time covered with from 1 foot to 2½ feet of soil, upon a rocky promontory just above my harbour of Bridgeness, and, at the time, the sea has flowed round the promontory within about 10 yards of the stone, as is shown by the remains of an old sea wall and a beach of washed shells and sand.

I will write Mr M'Culloch to let him know what day the stone will be sent in,—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

(Signed) HENRY CADELL.

P.S.—I omitted to mention that a considerable quantity of squared sandstones, roughly dressed, were found buried in the bank a little under and near where the tablet was found, and probably Roman; most of these have been used in the building surrounding the memorial tablet now erected, but I have still a few of them, and, if desired, I can send in two or more to keep the tablet company.—H. C.

[The Council of the Society readily agreed to the conditions mentioned in Mr Cadell's letter, and authorised the Treasurer to defray the expenses connected with erecting a suitable memorial on the site, with an inscription recording this very interesting discovery.]

The stone is well shown in the accompanying Plate VII.

The legionary stone is of light-coloured sandstone, and measures 9 feet in length by 3 feet in width, and about 8 inches in thickness. It is divided into three panels, the centre one displaying the inscription :—

IMP · CAES · TITO · AELIO
 HADRI · ANTONINO
 AVG · PIO · P · P · LEG · II
 AVG · PER · M · P · IIII · DCL · II
 FEC

Which may be read as follows :—

IMPERATORI CAESARI TITO AELIO HADRIANO ANTONINO AUGUSTO PIO,
 PATRI PATRIAE, LEGIO SECUNDA AUGUSTA, PER MILLIA PASSUUM IIII DC L II.,
 FECIT.

To the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his Country, The Second Legion The August, (Dedicates this, Having) made Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Two Paces (of the wall).

The panel to the right of the inscription has sculptured on it, in high relief, a mounted Roman soldier, with short spear, sword, and rounded shield with boss, galloping over a group of four naked and defeated Caledonians, armed with spear, sword, dagger, and square shaped shields with circular bosses. One of the men is pierced with a spear, and another is beheaded. The panel to the left, displays a group of five robed figures, with heads uncovered, and bearing a small standard, inscribed LEG · II · AVG ; the second figure is pouring the contents of a patera on a small altar. In front of the group a man is playing on the double pipe, another is crouching in front of the altar, and between them, there is a boar, a ram, and a bull, for the sacrifice of the *Suovetaurilia*.

With regard to the date of this sculpture, it may be noted that Antoninus Pius took the title of P. P., PATER PATRIÆ, in A.D. 139, and that he died in A.D. 161 ; it must therefore have been executed between these recorded dates.]

Dr J. A. SMITH said, that the sculptured stone was of much interest, it was the largest, he believed, that had been discovered on the line of the wall of Antoninus, between the Clyde and the Forth ; or, indeed, on that of Hadrian across the north of England. The inscription was

similar in character to those found on other parts of the wall, the dedication being, as in all the other instances, to the Emperor Antoninus Pius, and detailing the amount of work done here by the Second Legion, and the absence of all inscriptions of a later date, seems to show the comparatively slight hold the Romans had over this district. The sculptures are of peculiar interest; that to the right, representing a Roman horseman throwing a javelin at a party of Caledonians well armed, but naked, as Herodian describes them in his History—typical probably of their state of comparative barbarism in contrast to Roman civilisation, or stript, it may have been, for the field of battle. The other sculpture, a group of the heads of the legion, with their standard, and the usual attendant piper, preparing to offer up a sacrifice—the *Suovetaurilia*—probably the sacrifice of a Lustration, to obtain the blessing of the gods on the conclusion of this, the last portion, of the important work of the dividing Wall; the place where the sculpture was found being on elevated ground close to the sea-shore of the Firth of Forth. It is the only instance of a sculptured representation of a sacrifice on any of these Legionary stones, with which he was acquainted, either on this wall or on that of Hadrian. A large sculptured stone, with a corresponding inscription, but of much inferior workmanship, the work of the same legion, which had so much to do with the building of this wall, is preserved in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, and represents a very similar group,—a mounted Roman soldier spear in hand, and behind him Victory with a wreath, while below, are a couple of bound and naked natives; the other extremity of the stone being, however, occupied simply with the distinctive symbols of the legion. It was found at Castlehill towards the Clyde extremity of the wall.

[Dr Smith's attention has since been called, by Mr John Chalmers, to the interesting fact, that the ancient Celtic appellation of the locality may still remain in the immediate neighbourhood, in the name of the closely adjoining property of Kinneil, which appears to be simply the descriptive Gaelic designation of Walls-end; being a compound of *Ceann*, the head, or end, and *foille* the genitive of *Fàl*, a wall of earth, a vallum, or earthen rampart, *Ceannfoille*, the *f* being silent—Kinneil, the Head of the Wall. Wallsend, situated at the eastern extremity of Hadrian's Wall,

is a familiar name, and it is said that there is a place in the same neighbourhood known as *Penfal*, a Welsh or British name, which corresponds to the Gaelic Kinneill, and, like it, signifies the end of the vallum or rampart. Bede, by an apparent fusion of the northern and southern Celtic dialects, speaks of the end of Antonine's Wall as known by the name *Pen-el-tun*, which probably designates the place known by us as Kinneil. The general character of the Wall was that of an earthen rampart, although it was also partly faced, in some places, with stone.]

(The word *foille* on the opposite page, the genitive of *fàl*, a turf fence, should have been spelled *fhail*, the *fh* being silent. The usual Gaelic word for a wall or stone fence is *balla*, the genitive being *bhalla*, the *b* being aspirated.)

Sir JAMES Y. SIMPSON, Bart., remarked on the great interest of the discovery, and the striking character of the fact which it brought out—that a Roman sacrifice to the gods had actually been offered up on the shores of the Firth of Forth.

Mr JOHN STUART trusted Sir James, at a future meeting, would favour the Society with a Communication on the discovery, and its general bearing on the whole subject of the Roman Wall.



SCULPTURED ROMAN LEGIONARY TABLET, DISCOVERED AT CARRIDEN, LINLITHGOWSHIRE, 1869.

(9 feet in length.)