

ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS DISCOVERED IN BRITAIN  
IN 1880.

By W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

The past year (1880) has been fully an average one, as regards discoveries of the Roman period, and consequently the number of inscriptions which I have now the pleasure of laying, in a condensed form, before the Institute, will be found to embrace several of a very interesting nature, though it is quite possible that others have been found during the same period, which as yet remain unpublished, or unknown, in the possession of the discoverers.

Commencing, as I generally do, with the Wall of Hadrian, the first discovery took place early in March, about half a mile east of the station at Chesters (*Cilurnum*.) Here, whilst laying bare one of the turrets of the Wall (and also a portion of the Wall itself) Mr. Clayton, the owner, discovered a centurial stone *in situ*, bearing the inscription :

COH IX. >  
PAV. APRI

*i.e.*, *Cohortis nonae Centuria Pauli Apri*, "The century of Paulus Aper of the ninth cohort." Whether the cohort belonged to the second, sixth, or twentieth legions, it is impossible now to say—no doubt it was part of one of them, as it is not named as an auxiliary cohort. The stone is preserved by Mr. Clayton.

During the summer, Captain Coulson, the owner of Blenkinsopp Castle in Northumberland, which closely adjoins the Wall, resolved upon having the walls of the Castle (which were six feet four inches thick, and of Norman architecture) thinned. During the progress of this work, it was found that the Castle was chiefly built of stones taken from the Wall, and numerous sculptured

fragments were extracted. Amongst them were two fragments of inscriptions as follows :—

(1.)	
D. M.	
LIFANA. B	
CI. FILIA. V.	
IT. ANN	(2.)
L. SENO	† PO
LVS. AV	SVISL. 1
CVLVS	
CIT *	

I am indebted to Captain Coulson, Mr. Clayton, and Dr. Bruce for copies of the inscriptions, which agree, even to the extent of making the letter L the first in the sixth line of the first inscription : this is rather puzzling as (FE)CIT seems plainly the word at the end of the seventh and commencement of the eighth lines. I should suggest that instead of LVS, the reading should be IVS, and the whole inscription would then read something like this :—

*D(is) M(anibus) Lifana B \* \* \* ci filia vixit annos \* \*,  
L. Seno(n)ius Au(run)culus fecit.*

After the T in FECIT there is a peculiar form on the stone, which looks like TG ligulate. As it could not be expressed in ordinary type, I have marked its position with an asterisk.

The second of these inscriptions is so fragmentary that I am doubtful whether it is sepulchral or the portion of the base of an altar. *Pro suis L(ibens) M(erito)* seems a feasible reading but I merely suggest it. Captain Coulson has preserved these stones.

At the great station at Maryport, during excavations conducted by Mr. Robinson, the following inscriptions (most of which I have referred to in the *Journal*, vol. xxxvii, pp. 320-322) have been found.

(1.)	(2.)	(3.)
I. O. M.	. . . . ET	I. O. M.
G. CABA	. . . . .	N . . . . .
LLIVS. P	. . . . .	. . . . . AM
RISCVS.	. . . . .	. . . IANA. Q. F.
TRIBVN.	. . . . .	HERMIONE.
(4.)	(5.)	(6.)
LEG. XX.	SIG.	KARVS.

The first of these is on an altar, in its present state one foot eleven inches in height, but the base is broken off. The inscription reads *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) G(aius) Caballius Priscus Tribun(us)*. From three other in-

scriptions which have been found at Maryport (dedicated also to Jupiter) by this officer we learn that he was Tribune of the first cohort of the Spaniards which for a long period was in garrison at this station.

The second inscription was on a fine altar which had been purposely damaged, and the whole inscription removed with the exception of the letters ET at the end of the first line; but from this we can gather that more than one deity had been named in it, and that it probably commenced like other inscriptions found at the same station, I. O. M. ET. NVM. AVG.

No. 3 occurs upon a fine altar, three feet five inches high, but excessively weathered; at first hardly a letter of the inscription was visible, but as the stone became drier other letters came into view. From another altar found at Maryport many years ago, we get some clue as to the dedicator. This latter is dedicated "*Virtuti Augustæ*" by a daughter of Quintus (*Quinti Filia*) whose *nomen* ends in . . *iana* (as in the new discovered inscription) with apparently *Hermione* as the *cognomen*.

No 4 is simply a walling stone and reads *Legio Vicesima*. It is unusual to find the remainder of the *formula*, v. v. (*Valeria Victrix*) omitted. Some antiquaries would infer from this, that the stone was inscribed at an early period, but such could hardly be the case at this station which we have every reason to believe was erected in the reign of Hadrian.

No. 5 is the inscription upon a small sea-worn fragment of freestone, broken. It bears upon its face a nude figure apparently holding a spear in the left hand. On the left hand side of the stone, near the knees of the figure, are the letters SIG. As there is room on the opposite side for at least as many letters, I conjectured that NIF might have been there, thus forming an abbreviation of the word *Signifer*, but Mr. Robinson informs me that there are no traces of any letters there.

No. 6 is cut upon a fragment of pottery, and is probably the name of the owner of the vessel.

The whole of these inscriptions have been added to the Nether Hall collection of Mrs. Senhouse.

The *castrum* at South Shields has produced the following inscriptions:

(1.) VTERE FELIX	(2.) SANCTE ET NYMIN DOMITIVS EPICETV COMMILITONIBVSTEMPL	(3.) HVGA'L			
(4.) .. STV ..	(5.) DIA	(6.) PAV	(7.) EMLIV	(8.) RVFI	(9.) /ESTR

The first of these occurs upon a bronze handle of a vessel (probably a *patella*.) The letters are incised and appear to have been filled with enamel, of which fragments are still remaining. It is the fifth instance in Britain of this peculiar phrase,—one being on a large lanx found at Welney in Norfolk, another on an intaglio found in Scotland and published by Gordon in his “Itinerarium Septentrionale,” a third occurs in an inscription on a large walling stone at Malton, and the fourth in an inscription on a bone *tessera* found at Chesterton (Hunts.) A sixth will be noticed in this paper.

No. 2 is an interesting inscription, but is unfortunately broken at each end, by which means we lose the commencement and termination of each line. With the exception, however, of the name of the goddess to whom it is in the first place dedicated, we can restore with perfect safety the remainder. When favoured with the copy of the inscription by Mr. Robert Blair, I at once read it as (*Minervae*) *Sancte et Numin(ibus) Aug(us-torum) Domitius Epictetu(s cum) Commilitonibus Templ(um Rest)ituit*). Several of the letters in the word *Commilitonibus* are ligulate. Mr. Blair is of opinion that there would not be room before *Sancte* for the word *Minervae*. Should this be the case, I would suggest, as I informed him, *Dianae* instead of *Minervae*, though I think it improbable. Mr. Blair thinks *Deae* only could have been originally before *Sancte*. Though, perhaps, not unique, such a dedication would be rare. Dr. Hübner (I believe) also suggests *Minervae* as the missing word at the commencement of the inscription, which is on a slab, in its present state two feet four inches long by thirteen and a-half inches high.

No. 3 is on a portion of a large altar, and is undoubtedly part of the name of the cohort stationed at the *castrum* (CO)H. V. GAL(LORVM). Traces of letters (or rather the lower parts of them) are visible above this line.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This altar confirms the reading which, in April, 1875, I was the first to give, of

the tiles found at this station inscribed COH.V.G.

No. 4 is merely a fragment of an inscription on a portion of a green glass vessel ; the letter T only is complete, the lower parts of the S and V remain.

No. 5 is also the portion of the bottom of a glass vessel, the letters, having a vacant space in front of them, seem to be the commencement of a word, probably DIA(NAE.) They are in fine characters.

No. 6 is on a leaden seal (similar to those previously turned up at this place) and the letters are probably the abbreviation of PAV(LL.)

No. 7 is on a walling stone found in August, the letters are of a rude and rustic character, and there is room for several other letters before the E at the commencement, though they do not appear to have ever been there. Whether (A)EMILIV(S) has been the correct reading is uncertain. It approaches nearest. Perhaps it was a centurial stone.

Nos. 8 and 9 are both scratched as *graffiti* upon pieces of pottery, the first on a fragment of Samian, the second upon a fragment of brown ware. I am indebted to Mr. Robert Blair for the whole of these.

Several *graffiti* inscriptions have lately come under my notice. Amongst them are—

No. 1

T O S S A

which occurs on a fragment of Samian ware at *Cilurnum* on the Wall of Hadrian.

No. 2



is round the bottom of a vessel of Samian ware found at Chester le Street.

No. 3 which is on the under rim of a Samian bowl found at Binchester (*Vinovium*) is simply

VIXILATI.

To Mr. Blair I am indebted for copies of Nos. 1 and 2, and to the Rev. Dr. Hooppell for No. 3.

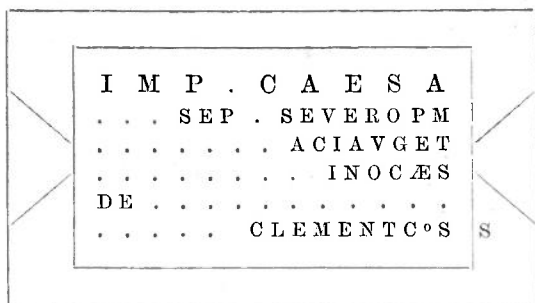
Amongst a collection of fragments of Samian ware, preserved in the Museum of the Mechanics' Institute at Lancaster, I recently found the following *graffiti*:—

(1.)  
— I F E R I

(2.)  
L I B —

The next inscription is one of great interest and was discovered in 1879 in the foundations of the south porch of the ancient church of Brough-under-Stanemore, when that building was undergoing "restoration." It has led to considerable discussion, which probably will still continue.

The stone is of the class usually placed over the gateways of Roman *castra*, and has been much ill-used after the departure of the Romans, and before it was built up into the church. My reading of the letters now extant is this—



From the first two lines it is plain that the inscription is of the time of the Emperor Septimius Severus; from the end of the fourth line it is also plain that it must be dated between A.D. 193 and A.D. 198 there being no Cæsar whose name in the dative would end in *INO* after that year. But from the end of the sixth line we find that the consuls for the year in which it was erected, were named, and, though the fact has been disputed, I think there is little doubt but that *CLEMENT* precedes *COSS*. This would at once point to the year A.D. 195, when Tertullus and Clemens were consuls, and consequently that the last line of the inscription when entire would read *TERTVLL ET CLEMENT COSS*.

This fact raises several difficult questions. In A.D. 195 Clodius Albinus was Cæsar, recognised as such by Severus from policy. The latter, with Albinus and

Pescennius Niger, was a competitor for the empire in A.D. 193 on the death of Didius Julianus. Albinus had been appointed imperial legate in Britain by Commodus, and as we gather from Xiphiline, held the same post through the reigns of Pertinax and Didius. According to Aurelius Victor, on the death of Didius, he *proclaimed himself Cæsar in Gaul*, but Dio, Herodian, and Capitolinus merely state that Severus declared him Cæsar. It is most probable that Severus made a virtue of a necessity in this case. Until he had overcome Niger who had proclaimed himself Emperor in the East, he could not attack Albinus; but in A.D. 194 Niger, after being defeated at Nicæa and Issus, was slain at Antioch.

If Aurelius Victor is correct, Albinus must at this time have been in Gaul; if so, and he was *acknowledged Cæsar*, why should there not be an imperial legate in Britain at the same time. Again, the evidence seems to shew that the Roman legions in Britain did not form part of the army which Albinus took over to the Continent, but that they remained in the island. Consequently they would be under the command of this legate.

It was not until A.D. 196 that Severus openly proceeded to hostilities against Albinus, whose fate was decided after a sanguinary battle, fought on the 19th February, A.D. 197, on the plains of *Tinurtium* near *Lugdunum* (the modern Lyons.) It is obvious, therefore, that if Albinus had been recognised as Cæsar until his downfall, that the *INO* in the fourth line of this inscription would be part of the word *ALBINO*. This was the reading I gave at first, considering it unique, but Dr. Hübner points out that if such had been the case, the name of Albinus would have been erased after his death. Dr. Hübner himself reads *NINO CAES* in this line, as part of the names (*M. AVREL. ANTO*)*NINO*, and referring to Bassianus, better known as Caracalla, the son of Severus. But this will not agree with the year A.D. 195. How can we reconcile the two readings?

Caracalla was proclaimed Cæsar in the first half of A.D. 196 (in the lifetime of Albinus) and we have a law bearing his name as such, dated June 30 of that year. But (and here I think lies the clue) an inscription found

at Ilkley some three centuries ago is dedicated to Severus and also to Antoninus as CAES DESTINATVS. This must have been erected prior to June, A.D. 196, and yet the name of Virius Lupus as imperial legate occurs in it. Dr. Hübner, "C.I.L.," vol vii, No. 210, gives the date, with a query, as A.D. 197, and inserts the abbreviation IMP. between CAES and DESTINATVS, in order to make it agree with four continental inscriptions of that year. But I see no reason why this should be done. What was the first intimation that Albinus had of the hostile intentions of Severus? Was it the withdrawal of the title of Cæsar from him, in official records? Up to A.D. 194 Albinus only claims the title of Cæsar upon his coins, but subsequently (*i.e.* after Niger's defeat) he claims upon coins, minted either in Britain or Gaul, the title of Augustus. If the British legions remained loyal to Severus, they would of course during this period not only imitate any example set at Rome, but probably give the son of Severus, then quite a child, the title of *Caesar Destinatus*. A further confirmation of this seems to appear in two inscriptions, one found at Old Carlisle, dedicated to Severus *alone* by the *Ala Augusta*, and the other at Bowes, in which *Virius Lupus* is styled *Legatus Augusti* (not *Augustorum*) the said Augustus being Severus, and no mention of a Caesar is made in either of them, nor has there been any erasure.

The subsequent appearance of Virius Lupus at the battle of Tinurtium fighting against Albinus does not necessarily militate against this theory. Even Dr. Hübner gives the date of the Bowes inscription as prior to A.D. 197. May it not have been a year or two previously? As far as I can make out, the letters DE, the commencement of DESTINATO, seem to be traceable at the commencement of the fifth line of this Brough inscription. There certainly appear to be traces of another inscription having been on the stone, which has been obliterated purposely; the present lines are very irregular with appearances of letters between them.

Dr. Hubner, in the *Academy* (Dec. 4th, 1880) asserted that he could not make out *cos* or *coss* in the last line, but singularly enough recognises part of the name Clemens in



a ligulate form as ENTE DEC. The letter c, which we are both agreed upon, he makes the last in the line, whilst I see it followed by oss. Dr. McCaul supports me as to this reading of coss. For a tablet of this nature to have been superintended by a *decurio* (corporal), as Dr. Hübner asserts would be foreign to previous experience. They are always stated to have been superintended by the commanding officer of the *corps*, generally a *Praefectus* or *Tribunus*.

Two other remarks of Dr. Hübner seem also very strange. The first is that coss for cos "would have been a blunder." Yet in Nos. 351 and 871 of his volume of "British Inscriptions," where this formula occurs he adopts it.

The second remark is that the stone probably came from the Roman station at Old Penrith, twenty-six miles distant, and was erected by the garrison of that place, the 2nd Cohort of the Gauls. We may at once dismiss such an unlikely hypothesis.

Brough was garrisoned at the time the *Notitia* was compiled by the *Numerus Directorum* (a sort of guides). Its Roman name was *Verterae*. This is the first inscription on stone which it has yielded, though a large number of small leaden seals stamped with the names of various cohorts, &c., have been found there.

I should also state that the end of the second line has been read by Dr. Hübner as PI, by Dr. McCaul as PERT (in a ligulate form), and by myself as PM. The exact order would be PIO PERTINACI, &c., and PM (for *Pontifici Maximo*) should come in afterwards, but there are breaches of this order occasionally, and I think PM is inserted at the end of the line, though I admit not in its normal position.

At York some most interesting discoveries have to be recorded. On 16th October in excavating for the foundations of a new building attached to St. Mary's Convent, just without Micklegate Bar, there were found at a depth of from five to six feet below the surface, "huddled together," to use the Rev. Canon Raine's expression, three small inscribed altars, and the greatest portion of a large statue. The former were thus inscribed:—

(1.)  
C.IVLIVS  
CRESCENS  
MATRI  
BVS DO  
MESTICIS  
V. S. M. L.

(2.)  
DEO. VE  
TERI  
PRIMVL  
VS. VOL  
M.

(3.)  
DEO. MARTI. C  
AGRIVS  
ARVSPEX  
V. S. L. M.

The first of these, which is on an altar seventeen inches high, and eight inches wide (except the head, which is nine inches wide), of hard polished stone, with fluted sides retaining traces of colour, is to be read *C(aius) Julius Crescens, Matribus Domesticis V(otum) S(oluit) M(erito) L(ibens)*. It is the third altar to the *Matres Domesticae* which has been found in Britain, the other two having been found at Stanwix and Burgh-upon-Sands, on the line of the Wall of Hadrian. There is a peculiarity in the form of the dedication on this altar, the name of the dedicator preceding instead of following the names of the deities, and in the last line the position of the letters ML is reversed, the usual formula being as in No. 3, *VSML*.

No. 2 is on an altar ten-and-a-half inches high by five inches wide. Though inscriptions to the *Deus Vetus* are of frequent occurrence upon the line of the Roman Wall in Northumberland, this is the first time that one has been found so far south. Previously Lanchester, in Durham, was the southernmost limit of this class of inscriptions.

There is a difficulty as to the names of the dedicator. Canon Raine reads the inscription, *Deo Veteri Primulus Vol(usius) M(erito)*. I am by no means satisfied with this, as *Primulus* for a *praenomen* seems exceptionally strange; but in default of a better reading being obtainable, accept it.

No. 3 seems to be the body of an altar, of which the head and base are wanting. It is exceedingly worn, and when first discovered was almost totally illegible, but as the stone has dried the letters have come out clearer. From an inspection of it, in various lights, I can confirm the above reading (which is that of the Rev. Canon Raine), the only doubtful point being whether *AVSPEX* (as a *cognomen*) or *ARVSPEX* (a soothsayer) is the correct reading of the third line. Canon Raine thinks he can detect the letter R ligulate with the A. I could not see it certainly, but freely admit that it may be



Roman Statue found at York.

there. Assuming such to be the case, the expansion would be *Deo Marti C(aius) Agrius, Aruspex, V(otum) S(olvit) L(ibens) M(erito)*. No other inscription naming an *Aruspex* (or *Haruspex*) has been found in Britain.

Digressing for a moment from inscriptions, I must say a few words as to the statue, which, in my opinion, is one of the finest (if not the finest) of large size, which our island has produced.<sup>1</sup> Though the feet are broken off, it is still five feet six inches in height, and is composed of sandstone grit. Although the attire is that of a male the features have a decidedly feminine appearance, and it has been variously supposed to be either a statue of Mars or some other deity, or that of an Emperor, or of a Roman soldier. The figure stands erect, in military dress, having a helmet and greaves. The left hand is resting upon a large oval shield (over two feet high), and at the left side hangs a sword suspended from a belt crossing the breast from the right shoulder. The right arm is broken off a little below the elbow, but from the position of the remainder, the right hand evidently held a spear. Though entire when found (with the above-named exception of the feet and right arm), the head of the statue was unfortunately broken off in raising it, but the fracture being a clean one, it has been neatly cemented.

I venture on a suggestion as to the statue. Both it and the altars were certainly not found *in situ*, and to all appearance some distance from their original position, as if they had been concealed, for the ground where they were discovered seemed to be a portion of one of the roadside cemeteries of Roman York, a number of skeletons being found at a greater depth than the altars and statue. In all probability they came from within the city walls, somewhere in this neighbourhood. With regard to this, I will give the following quotation from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1740, p. 189, written by an anonymous correspondent, and dated from York, April 22nd of that year.

“A very antique monumental stone was lately found near *Micklegate* in this city; it is of the *grit* kind, two feet ten inches broad, and appears to have been the *base*

<sup>1</sup> A drawing of it has been exhibited to the Institute by Mr. Walford, and a photograph by myself which accompanied

this paper, and from which the engraving here given is taken.

*pedestal* of a statue by the lead *where the feet* were fixed into it.<sup>1</sup> The inscription upon it runs thus," &c., &c. The correspondent does not divide the inscription into lines, and makes some expansions, but Gough in his 1789 edition of "*Camden's Britannia*," vol. iii, p. 62, supplies the correct version, which is—

BRITANNIÆ  
SANCTÆ  
P. NIKOMEDES  
AVGG. NN  
LIBERTVS.

He also states that it was found *within* Micklegate Bar. Combining these facts with the strong feminine features of the statue, with the remarkably (for a male) large breasts, is there not a possibility that we have here a representation of Britannia herself? The absence of the feet is accounted for if they were fastened with lead to the pedestal when the statue was broken from it. The only militating circumstance is the short corselet. In the case of the statue of the goddess *Brigantia* found at Middleby, she, whilst bearing helmet, spear, and shield, has feminine attire. But on many of the coins of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Commodus, with the reverse "*Britannia*," this same feature of a short dress occurs. (*Vide* "*Mon. Hist. Brit.*," Pl. ii. and iii., the same type of helmet appearing in Pl. ii., Fig. 11.) It is evident that the statue has not been meant to stand in a niche, as in the case of tombstones, for the sculpture extends equally round the back as well as the front. In any event, the circumstance of the base of a statue of Britannia being found within a few yards is singular.<sup>2</sup>

At Escombe (co. Durham) Dr. Hooppell informs me that two fragmentary inscriptions have lately been found built up *within* the church (one in the *outer* wall I described in my last list). They are

(1.)  
· · · · ·  
VIM>>>· ·

(2.)  
LINI

The first is much worn and is 18 feet above the pavement,

<sup>1</sup> The italics are mine.—W. T. W.

<sup>2</sup> Apollo is probably the only *male* deity, whose appearance would be so youthfully represented; but in this case the spear, shield, and sword, are con-

clusive against the statue representing him. On the silver lanx found at Corbridge we have Diana in a short dress. The helmet is of a Greek type, so is the name *Nicomedes* on the base.

in the north wall of the nave "and between 1 ft. 5 in. and 4 ft. 6 in. from the chancel wall." Only faint vestiges remain of the first line, and little more of the second.

The second inscription is in the same wall 11 ft. 6 in. above the pavement, and extends 1 ft. 2 in. eastwards from the west wall of the nave. It may be part of the word APOLLINI.

During the progress of the sewerage works at Cirencester, an altar was found 30 inches high and 15 inches broad, bearing upon its front, in a niche between two columns, the figure of a Genius holding a cornucopia in the left hand and with the right sacrificing upon an altar. Above are the letters

G. S. HV. I \* SLOC \*

reading, when entire, G. S. HVIVS LOCI, i.e., *Genio Sancto hujus loci*. Dr Hübner reads the S as *S(acrum)* which is very improbable as, if it meant that word, it would, as in other examples, have followed *loci*, whereas *Sancto* is in its normal position. The altar was broken into forty-five pieces but has been joined together by Mr. Bowly, the Curator of the Museum. The asterisks mark letters missing owing to fractures, the stop after the v is peculiar but similar instances occur in other inscriptions.

In October 1879, there was found on the site of a Roman cemetery at Guilden Morden in Cambridgeshire, with a quantity of plain pottery, a terra cotta vase, "ornamented with wreaths of laurel, enclosing the inscription—

VTERE FELIX

painted around, in white letters  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. long." The letters are finely executed. The vase is now in the possession of Mr. William Andrews of Litlington, the next parish. I am indebted for this information to Mr. Robert Blair of South Shields, and Rev. S. S. Lewis of Cambridge.

Whilst excavating in Houndsditch and Duke Street (London) for new premises, a bastion of the ancient Roman city wall was come upon, and found to be in a great measure composed of sculptured fragments from some still earlier Roman buildings. Amongst them was a fragment of a much worn inscription which I recently inspected with Mr. J. E. Price, F.S.A., and Mr. Alfred White, F.S.A., at the Guildhall Museum. Just enough

can be made out of it to show that it is sepulchral. The letters appear to be

A  
EIV  
VS  
VIX ANN  
AVS \* RI  
NT N FAC

The commencement of the inscription is lost; also each end of the lines of the remainder. The second existing line seems to be part of the word EIV(s); in the fourth we have plainly *vixit annos*, in the fifth the asterisk marks a letter which may be T, and thus the line may read AVSTRI or instead of I the last letter may be part of A; it should be noticed that the AV at the commencement of the line is ligulate. In the last line FAC has no doubt been followed by CVR as usual, making the abbreviation of *Fac(iendum) Cur(avit)*, but the letters before FAC are indistinct. They either, I think, represent the words *Parentes* or *Alumnus*, in some abbreviated form.

On the 31st March, whilst excavating in the large Roman bath in the city of Bath, about fifteen feet beneath the former level of the water in the King's Bath, the workmen found two leaden tablets, amongst a number of coins of Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus, Gallicenus, Constantine, &c. One, which was  $2\frac{11}{16}$  inches square, "with a notch cut on the left side  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches long from the bottom, and  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch deep," and 1-20th of an inch thick, bore an inscription in eight lines, which has been a source of much controversy amongst archæologists. I have not seen the original, nor yet a photograph, so will at present only give the views of others on the subject, hoping in my next annual list to return to it.

The first account of it was published by Mr. C. E. Davis, the city architect of Bath, who gave in the *Athenæum* of May 15, 1880, a reduced fac-simile of it, with a reading and translation, which he and Prof. Sayce had jointly agreed upon. Another reading followed in the *Academy* of Nov. 13 by Professor Rhys; a third, forwarded to the Rev. H. M. Scarth, and the writer, by Dr. McCaul of Toronto, was published by Mr. Scarth in the *Academy* of March 12th, 1881; whilst an enlarged fac-

simile and another reading has been published by Prof. Zangemeister in the *Hermes*, the result of his own and Dr. Hübner's consideration of the inscription.

It will be best to print the various readings which have been given in order to fully understand their differences. The peculiar feature of the tablet is that the inscription is reversed and reads from right to left.

Mr. Davis's reading :—

COLAVITVILBIAMMIHIQ  
AQVACOMCLIQV—TSEC [or RJIV  
AVITEAMLV TAEI  
EXPERIVSVELVINNA I LV  
GVERINVSAERIANXSEX  
ITIANVSAVGVSTALISSE  
CATVSMINIANVSCOM  
IOVINA GERMANILL.

Professor Rhys's reading :—

[COL]LAVIT VILBIAM MIHI Q  
AQVA COM CLIQVAT. : SEGIN-  
AVIT EAM QVINNVTALE :  
EXPE. REIVS, VELVINNA, . . . ~ LV :  
C. VERINVS AERIANVS EXS.  
ITIANVS AGVSTALIS : SEP.  
CATVS MINIANVS COM  
IOVINA GERMANILL[A].

Dr. McCaul's reading :—

COLAVIT VILBIAM MIHI Q  
AQVA COM C LIQV AT PRIV (or SAGIN)  
AVIT EAM LVE MORTALI IN (?)  
EXPERTVS VELVI NOMINARVM  
CAIVS VERINVS AERIANVS EXS  
ITIANVS AVGVSTALIS SE  
CATVS MINIANVS COM  
IVNIA GERMANILL (?)

As Professor Zangemeister, to make his reading clear, transposes some of the letters, I give his reading in ordinary type with his expansions :—

Q(ui) mihi ma(n)teliu (m) in (v)olavit  
Sic liquat (c) com aqua ella . . . ta  
Ni q(ui) eam (sa)lvavit . . . vinna vel (?)  
Ex sapereus (V)erianus, Severianus,  
Agustalis, Comitianus, Catus-minianus  
Germanill(a) Iovina.

Mr. Davis and Professor Sayce gave the following translation :—



Quintus has bathed [or washed] Vilbia for me  
 with the water ; along with Cliquatis he has  
 saved her by means of QVIM . . . TAEI [or TALE]  
 [His] pay [is] 500,000 pounds of copper coins or quinarii  
 [Signed] by G. Verinus Arianus [Ælianus] Ex  
 itianus the Augustal Priest, [and] Sextius  
 Catus Minianus along with  
 Jovina Germanilla.

Professor Rhys says that he " will not attempt to explain the meaning of the inscription."

Dr. McCaul considers VILBIA in the first line to be a corruption of the Roman name FVLVIA; Q (somewhat indistinct in the second line) to stand for *Quotidie*; and would read it by making *Aqua* the nominative to the verb *Colavit*, C standing for *cum*, and LIQV for *liquore*.

" Water, with hot liquor daily, has drenched my Fulvia, but has cured (or freed) her from a mortal malady. Inexperienced I have desired (Velui for Volui) five names."

Then follow the names, viz., Caius Verinus, Arianus, Exsitianus, Augustal Priest, Secatus Minianus, with Junia Germanilla.

Professor Zangemeister's reading is so different to the others that until I fully understand the tenor of his remarks (which are written in German) I will not give any translation ; but in the meantime I may say that I think his reading very likely to be correct. The stealing of a cloak or mantle was just what would be recorded on a leaden plate : we have a similar example in the case of a ring being stolen, on a leaden plate found at Lydney, in Gloucestershire.

Of the second plate found at Bath at the same time, I can as yet say nothing. I believe that both the plate and the negative of the photograph of it are at Oxford, in the possession of Professor Westwood, and until he publishes a copy of it, it is excluded from the archæological world (though both plates, I believe, were exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries). In the *Academy* of Nov. 13th, 1880, Professor Westwood was said to be " progressing with the reading of it." I hope that his reading will soon be published. The Rev. H. Scarth informs me that " it appears almost hopeless to attempt an explanation, as letters and symbols, or figures, are jumbled

up together and perhaps were not intended to make sense." The tablet is said to be inscribed on both sides.

Early in the year Mr. Hartshorne informs me that Dr. Knaggs discovered in a garden at New Hampton, Surrey, a white marble tombstone,  $46\frac{1}{2}$  inches high by 15 inches broad, and 4 inches thick. The upper portion is pedimented, and decorated with a rosette ornament, heads of oxen, and festoons, underneath which in a sunken panel  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 10 inches, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep, is a bas-relief representing a female seated at the foot of a couch, upon which a male figure lies semi-recumbent; the latter holds a two-handled drinking vessel in his hand, and provisions and vessels are placed near on two tripod goat-legged tables or stools; behind the male figure reading apparently from a scroll, and behind the female figure is a girl in apparently a listening posture. The drapery and furniture are Grecian. Beneath the panel is this inscription:—

ΒΟΥΒΑΣ ΜΟΚΑΠΟΡΙ  
ΓΙΑΙΓΗΚΟΣ ΔΙΝΑΠΟΡΙ  
ΧΑΙΡΕΤΕ

The first two lines are evidently four proper names. From a rubbing and photograph, with which I was favored by Mr. Hartshorne, I at once pronounced the inscription to be of Eastern origin, probably from the Levant. Since then Mr. A. W. Franks has informed me that he is of the same opinion. The stone has probably been brought over to England by some curiosity hunter.<sup>1</sup>

Though not found in Britain, but referring altogether to it, I have ventured to insert here the copy of the fragment of a new *Tabula Honestae Meissionis* found at the close of 1880, in the bed of the Meuse at Flémalle, close to Liège, and published by Mr. C. Roach-Smith, F.S.A., from a rubbing he had received from M. Schuermans of Liège, in vol. xxxvii, pp. 94-5 of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*. It is dated in COS. II. of Trajan. As this Emperor was Consul for the second time in A.D. 98, and for the third time in A.D. 100, the date is either A.D. 98 or 99. Of the two *alae* which are named in it, the names are lost; of the six cohorts, only the name of one is lost, and the names of the five which remain are already well known to students of

<sup>1</sup> This tombstone was exhibited at the Monthly Meeting of the Institute April 7, 1881. See p. 317.

Britanno-Roman history. The chief interest consists in the name of the Imperial Legate, Titus Avidius Nepos, which is new—nothing else being recorded of this Governor of Britain. Liège is in the country formerly inhabited by the Tungri, a cohort of which people is named in the *Tabula*, and, as Mr. Roach-Smith remarks, the latter probably belonged to a soldier of the cohort, who returned to his birth-place with this certificate of discharge.

I give the exact copy of Mr. Smith's communication. There seems to be an error in giving the inscription on the reverse side, the fourth and fifth lines being transposed, but whether this error occurs in the original or is merely typographical I have been unable to ascertain, though I have made enquiries. Mr. Smith says:—

"The following is my reading of the rubbing sent me by by M. Schuermans, with restorations in brackets. The obverse:—

[Imperator Caesar divi Ner]VAE [Filius] NERVA TRAIANVS  
[German]ICVS PONTIFEX MAXIMVS  
[tribunica p]OTESTAT[e] CO[n]s[ul] II  
[equitibus et peditib]VS QVI MILITANT IN ALIS  
[duabus et cohortib]VS SEX QVAE APPELLANTVR  
[I.....]A [civium Romanorum] ET I TVNGRORVM  
[et I.....]RVN ET I HISPANORVM  
[et I.....rum et I] FIDA VARDVLLORVM [C.L.]  
[et II li]NGONVM ET II NERVIO  
[rum et sunt in Brit]ANNIA SVB T AVIDIO  
[Nepote dimissis] HONESTAE MISSIONE A  
[...qui] QVINA ET VICENA PLVRA  
[ve stipendia merue]RVNT QVORVM NOMI  
[na subscripta sunt] IPSIS LIBERIS POSTERIS  
[que eorum civitate] M DEDIT ET CONVIVM  
[cum uxoribus quas] TVNC HABVISSENT CVM  
[civitas est eis data duntaxat singula singulas, etc.]

"The reverse:

FIDA.....  
II LINGONVM ET II NE...  
IN BRITANNIA SAB T AV...  
DIMISSIS HONESTA M...  
NEPOTE QVI QVINA ET...  
PENDIA MERVERVNT...  
SVBSCRIPTA SVNT...  
RISQVE EORVM C...  
CONVBIVM CVM VX...  
HABVISSENT CVM...

"The inscription is written, or rather engraved, in rustic Roman capitals of very fine shape and character; the letters of the obverse being smaller, closer, more carefully made, and more conventional, than those of the reverse, which are larger and more displayed, and exhibit

a greater freedom on the part of the writer." Mr. Smith adds that the *Tabula* is now preserved in the Museum of the Society of Art and History of the Diocese of Liege.

There are one or two inscriptions found some years since which Dr. Hübner has overlooked. At Lydney (Gloucestershire) among the remains found and preserved there are two roofing tiles, stamped in very fine letters

L. L. Q.

I am indebted to Mr. A. D. Berrington for this information. The letters read *Libertis Libertabusque*.

In vol. xxi, of the *Archæological Journal* there is an account of a *fibula* found at Wroxeter, inscribed

FECIT.

In the same vol., p. 88, an account is given of a glass vessel found with an interment at Carlisle, on the under side of which occurred



In the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, vol. iii, No. 2, Part i, *Reliquae Galeanae*, there is engraved in Plate iii, Fig. 12, a Roman tombstone found at Lincoln, said, at p. 70, in a letter from Maurice Johnson to Roger Gale, dated May 2nd, 1737, to have been "found in the ruins of the old town house by workmen digging for sand eight feet deep." The stone had an ornamented pediment, underneath which was an inscribed panel, the only letters remaining being

ANIAV F  
INB XII RI  
CIN XXXV

.....  
.....

The account says "no other letters are visible upon it at present, but there have been five lines formerly inscribed." Under the panel there had been some ornamentation described as resembling a vase with flowers. In a note it is said that perhaps the stone is the same as that described by Dr. Stukeley, on which he could only read D.M. and VIX.ANN.XXX. (Dr. Hübner's, No. 195.)

In a letter (at present in my possession) from the Rev. John Whitaker (Author of the *History of Manchester*) to the Rev. J. West (Author of the *Antiquities of Furness*),

dated Manchester, July 4th, 1776, the writer speaks thus of some communication to him in a former letter of Mr. West's, now lost—

“Your mutilated figure, and your imperfect inscription I can make nothing of. The former appears to me to exhibit a couple of human hands with the backs of them to the eye and the thumbs under them, and if they had been feet all the toes must have appeared. The inscription seems, from the drawing, to be upon the base of a pillar, and to have these words—

SERVIVS . VALERIVS  
CENTVRIO . . . . .

but I can make no sense of the rest.”

This inscription probably came from Lancaster or its neighbourhood, Mr. West living at that time at Hornby, only a few miles distant.

On going through the York Museum systematically, recently, with the Rev. Canon Raine, I noticed several other inedited inscriptions, which are these:—

(1.)  
MARTI  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(2.)  
MERC . .

(3.)  
D.A.M.I.

(4.)  
PATRIC

No. 1 is on an altar found some years ago in York, about twenty inches in height, and which had hitherto been considered as uninscribed. Upon close examination, however, I detected an inscription, almost entirely obliterated upon it, but could only distinguish the first line as above.

No. 2 is in very fine letters on a fragment of the side of a vessel of light brown ware, and when complete may have read MERCVRIO.

No. 3 is round the body of a vessel of Castor ware about three and a-half inches in height, the letters are in white “slip” and have ornamental stops between them.

No. 4 is on the inside of the bottom of a glass vessel, the letters being raised.

On two fragments of Samian ware in the same Museum and found in the city are the *graffiti* inscriptions:—

(1.)  
VIVVM

(2.)  
IANVAR

In the first, the second v is ligulate with the m.

Round the body of a food vessel, discovered with a skeleton in York and now in the Museum, have been the following letters in "slip" which has disappeared leaving merely its *umbra*:—

.S.L.A.X.S.A..

The vessel in form and ornamentation strongly resembles Castor ware, though of a dark brown colour and glazed. The last letter I am not sure of, it may have been M.

On a broken vessel of similar ware in the same museum are the following letters in white "slip" round the body:—

M.I.\*.G.E.M.I.

The asterisk marks a letter which has been on the missing portion of the vessel.

Two other inscriptions on fragments of pottery in the same collection are:—

(1.)  
|QVR/  
|IC/

(2.)  
/ES. M

The first is on the side of a portion of a vessel of light brown ware, and the second in white slip on a fragment of Castor ware. There are also several other fragments of the same ware bearing letters in white slip, but only one letter remains on each.

In my list of "Inscriptions found in 1878," *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxvi, p. 165, I referred to "a few unintelligible pieces of an inscription which has been shattered into fragments," found at York. I have narrowly inspected them and find that they are these:—

AVG — I — IE — NI — IV <sup>ISIV</sup>

The letters are well cut and the inscription must have been a very fine one. I have thought it possible that the portion of the upper right hand corner may have been part of the words (SEPTIM)I SEV(ERI) but the genitive case is unusual and the letter after the s *seems* to be I. As to AVG, I have so put it, but the distinctive mark of the letter G is broken off, reading now as if it was AVC. Another portion of the outer moulding of the tablet remains, which is grasped or supported by the right hand

of a human figure. The fragments were found in the garden of the Station Hotel.

A few inscriptions are given in the 7th vol. of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, by Dr. Hubner, regarding which it is necessary to make some further remarks.

At p. 62 there are given copies of inscriptions on two tablets found at York, at that time imperfectly read owing to the oxidised state in which they remained; one adhering to the back of the other. They have now, owing to the care of the Rev. Canon Raine, been cleaned and the whole of the inscriptions are visible, which read thus:—

(1.)  
Θεοις  
ΤΟΙΣ ΤΟΥΤΗΓ  
ΜΟΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΡΑΙ  
ΤΩ ΠΙΟΥΤΣΚΡΙΒ  
ΔΗ \* ΗΤΡΙΟC

(2.)  
ωκεανωι  
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΘΥΙ  
ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙ

No. 1 is dedicated "to the gods of the chief (or governmental) palace by Scribonius Demetrius." The only difficulty is at the end of the fourth line where *CKPIB* occurs. I have rendered it as the first portion of the name Scribonius.<sup>1</sup> Others have rendered it as the Latin word "*Scriba*," and thus translated it as "Demetrius the scribe." The third letter in the last line we gather from No. 2. No. 2 is simple. It is a dedication to "Ocean and Tethys" by the same person, Demetrius.

I have recently examined Dr. Hübner's No. 256, preserved at the York Museum, which I find reads:

NI. SECVN  
E VOCO

and I take it to be a portion of a tombstone of a person whose *cognomen* was *Secundus* or *Secundinus*, whilst from the second line (as I some years ago asserted) we have evidence that the deceased belonged to the *Ala Vocontiorum*. Dr. Hubner's L before voco is certainly not correct, though it would make no difference to the reading; instead of AL VOCO the reading has been (ALA)E.VOCO. The only letters about which there can be any dispute are the NI in the first line, though I am very sure of them, but they do not affect the sense of the remainder.

Dr. Hübner's No. 267 (found at Hazlehead) has now

<sup>1</sup> I find that Dr. Hubner in the "*Ephemeris Epigraphica*," vol. iii, p. 312, gives the same reading.

been removed to the York Museum. It is on a large boulder, one face of which has been cut level for the reception of the inscription.

The boss of the shield of the soldier of the Eighth Legion found at Tynemouth Bar (Dr. Hübner's No. 495,) has also now found a resting place in the York Museum.

Dr. Hübner's No. 1161, seems either to be hidden, or to have perished, at Dynevor Park, into the wall of which it remained built up as late as 1824 (Westwood, "*Lapidarium Walliae*," p. 75.)

A few notes have to be added upon some of the inscriptions I have given in previous lists. In vol. xxxi, of the *Journal*, p. 345, I have given the lettering on a tombstone found at Ilkley, making the fourth line commence IESSEL. In the *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, vol. iii, p. 121, Dr. Hübner suggested that the first letter of this might be T and not I. On looking narrowly at Dr. Whitaker's sketch this seems to be the case. In the same volume of the *Journal*, p. 158, I gave from the *Gentleman's Magazine* an inscription found at Wroxeter as CAAM, which I have since noticed that the Rev. H. M. Scarth reads as GMM in vol. xxi, of the *Journal*, p. 131.

In vol. xxxiv, p. 135, I discussed the inscriptions on two vases found in the well of the goddess "Coventina," at Carrawburgh, on the Wall of Hadrian, chiefly referring to the name of the potter, read by Dr. Hübner as Saturninus Gabinius. During the discussion I had in the Newcastle press, 1877-8, with Mr. Clayton, I argued from the position of these names that they were either those of two persons, or should be transposed so as to read "Gabinius Saturninus." Dr. McCaul, in recently writing to me on the subject, says, "I am certain that the names of the person are Gabinius Saturninus, and that the inscriptions are Trochaic Tetrameter Catalectic verse, although sadly disfigured by false quantities."

In vol. xxxvii of the *Journal*, p. 137, I gave an inscription found at Gold Cliff (Monmouthshire). Mr. Octavius Morgan, as will be remembered, recently communicated a valuable paper to the Institute on the subject, showing that the sea embankment at the spot was formed by the Romans, and agreeing in Mr. C. W. King's view that the last line marked two miles of the



length of the embankment executed by the century of Satorius. This certainly seems very probable. Mr. Morgan thinks that the mark between the two m's is merely an accidental scratch.

At p. 141 of the same vol. I stated, in dealing with the inscription to Aesculapius found at Binchester, "The only inscription" (previously) "found in Britain which names a *medicus* was discovered at Housesteads," &c. I should have added that the Greek form of the same term ΙΑΤΡΟΣ occurs upon an altar found at Chester.

Upon the same page I gave the inscription M P P which occurs upon a tile at Binchester. Dr. McCaul, in writing to me since I published this, says that he is inclined to expand it, as *manu primi-pili*.

At p. 145 of the same vol. I noticed an inscription found in 1776 at Bath. The Rev. H. M. Scarth has since informed me that he has found a copy of this identical with mine, appearing in the *Bath Chronicle*, 13th June, 1776, and he thinks it possible it may be part of a dedication *Deae Suli*.

At p. 150 of the same vol., when describing a tombstone found at Tomen-y-Mur, I remarked that no letterpress description of it appeared to be given in Professor Westwood's "Lapidarium Walliae." I find that this is an error, for though the stone is engraved in Plate lxxviii, Fig. 4, it is described at p. 156 under the head of Plate lxxix, Fig. 5. Professor Westwood reads the second and third lines as BARRECT || CARANTI, but there is no doubt of the T and E being ligulate in the third, whilst as to the last letter in the second, it might *possibly* be as he suggests, though it does not appear to me to be so. The dimensions of the stone are eighteen inches long by twelve wide, and the letters are two and a-half inches high. Professor Westwood thinks the inscription post-Roman, but I see no reason for this opinion. He says "the formula of the inscription is quite different from that of the Roman stones above described" (*i.e.*, centurial stones) "and indicates a period rather later, than the departure of the Romans from the Principality."

Another reading has since been given by the British Archæological Association of the inscription which I named at p. 151 of vol. xxxvii of the *Journal*, as found at

Herringfleet and said to be on the *handle* of a *patella*. It is :—

QV. ATTENV. F

One or two more inscriptions found, and lost again before being published, have to be put on record. In Hodgson's "History of Northumberland," vol. iii, Pt. ii, p. 173, it is said, in an account of great Roman discoveries ("a chaos of ruins") which were made near the north-east angle of the Court House at Newcastle-on-Tyne, during the building of that edifice in 1812, that amongst the articles discovered were part of a fine Corinthian pillar fluted, and of splendid workmanship, many mill-stones "and two altars, one bearing an illegible inscription, the other quite plain." Neither Dr. Bruce in the "Lapidarium," nor Professor Hübner appear to notice this altar, which, doubtless to experts, might have yielded some information from the inscription.

In Allies' *Antiquities of Worcestershire* (1852), p. 107, it is stated with regard to a Roman camp on Hadley Heath, in the parish of Ombersley, that "the workmen who were employed at the enclosure" (apparently of the common, in 1815) "dug up, at the south-east side of the camp, a leaden chest upon which was an inscription, but the finders broke it to pieces and sold it as old material."

In vol. i of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, p. 340, it is stated that Mr. Inskip, of Shefford, Beds, sent through Mr. Roach Smith, the drawing of a *patera* found with other Roman vessels, in June, 1845, at Penlowe Park, Herts, on the bottom of which an inscription was scratched with a sharp pointed instrument, said to be "formed of Greek, Roman, and (perhaps) Gaulish characters." Mr. Roach Smith thought it might be the maker's name, but no representation of it has been given.

This, so far as my memory serves me, is the complete list for the year. Other inscriptions have since been found, amongst them, an interesting one at Colchester, but they must remain until my list for 1881 appears. The corrections as to previously found inscriptions, I have thought necessary in order to ensure accuracy as far as it is possible to obtain it.