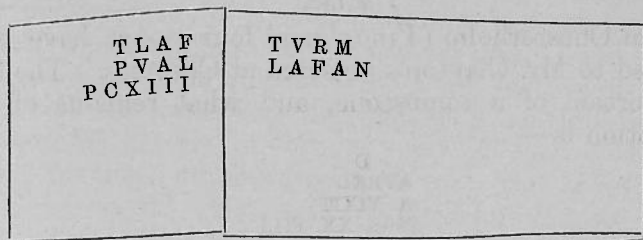


# ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS FOUND IN BRITAIN IN 1882.

By W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

The past year has not yielded us by any means so large a number of inscriptions as its immediate predecessors, though a few of the epigraphs are of considerable value.

During excavations at the station of *Cilurnum*, on the Roman Wall, Mr. Clayton found a peculiarly inscribed stone, which may be thus represented—



The inscription on the front apparently reads as TVRM(A) or TVRM(AE) LAFAN(II). That on the side as T(VRMAE) LAF(ANII) P(VBLIVS) VAL(ERIVS) P(EDES) CXIII. The stone is evidently not one of the class generally termed centurial. These invariably record an amount of wall built, ranging in dimensions between twenty and thirty feet. Such is the case not only on the Wall, but at Manchester, Ribchester, and Tomen-y-Mur, the only other stations where centurial stones have been found. Here we have 113 feet named, and the stone is of the same class as No. 139 of the *Lapidarium Septentrionale* (Dr. Hübner's No. 596.) I take it that the stone marked the boundary of an allotment of private property, and further proves that the station of *Cilurnum* was originally built as an

independent fortress with a *territorium* around it, occupied, as Mr. Coote in his "*Romans of Britain*" expresses it, by "military tenants," and not as part of the line of defence formed by the Wall, into which it was afterwards brought.

This seems confirmed by Mr. Clayton's discovery of another stone inscribed (rudely)

LAPIS  
IVLIVS

The occurrence of the *nomen*, simply, in this inscription is further evidence on the point.

A third stone found by Mr. Clayton is one of the ordinary centurial class and is inscribed—

○ VICTORI  
NI

*i.e.*, *Centuria Victorini*. It came from near Cawfields Mile Castle on the Wall.

A fourth stone of the ordinary "walling stone" class is inscribed simply

MILES.

From Chesterholm (*Vindolana*) four stones have been removed to Mr. Clayton's museum at Chesters. The first is a portion of a tombstone, and what remains of the inscription is—

D  
AVREL  
A. VIXIT  
NOS. XX. FILI  
AVR < IVC.

and probably reads *Diis manibus Aurelia vixit annos xx, filia Aurelii Iucundi*, although the word *filia* is not in its normal position.

The second is also a portion of a tombstone, but a mere fragment. The letters remaining are—

\* I I \*  
ORVM  
TATEA

The third is another and adjoining portion of the tablet to which Dr. Hübner's No. 1346 (found in 1870) belongs. The two fragments read—

SEPT  
ACL  
O. PIO.  
AE  
RANTE  
SET  
.OC

It is part of a large tablet dedicated to Septimius Severus and Caracalla, and is the first found on the Wall in which the name of Severus occurs.

Of the fourth, I gave (as far as I was then able) one portion in my list of inscriptions found in 1877 (*Archæol. Journal*, vol. xxxv, p. 64), but the copy I then had was very defective. Dr. Bruce has, however, lately favoured me with a photograph of this, and copies of several readings of the other (left hand) portion, which is very weather-worn and obscure. The two parts, which however are not the whole of the stone, I would read thus, marking with asterisks the doubtful letters—

BAVIDIREGVLOVIXIT  
 SXXXXIIIIPLMTEATQVE  
 IVGIPIEVIXANISXXXXII  
 MER\*EORVMVIXITD  
 IM\*\*CI\*FILIOEORVM  
 I\*XITMIIAVIDIVANIPL\*  
 \*\*MIAHICE  
 TIM\*

It is plain that we have here a large family tombstone. The commencement of the inscription is lost, and so are probably the beginning and end of each line. In the first existing line, after B, only AVD is visible instead of AVID, but I think the I has been ligulate as a continuation of the upright stroke of the D, and is lost with the missing portions of the stone. If not the word is a puzzle. I would then read \* *Avidi(o) Regulo vixit annis xxxiiii pl(us) m(inus)*, but the remainder of the line is uncertain. The third line seems to read *(con)-jugi pie vix(it) an(n)is xxxii*, but the name of the wife must have preceded this. The fourth line seems to commence with part of the word *mer(enti)* followed by *eorum vixit*, but is very perplexing. In the fifth and sixth we have perhaps something concatenate, i.e., the name of a child in the dative followed by *filio eorum vixit m(ensibus) ii*, then the name of a second, *Av(i)di(o) v(ixit) Anno i. pl(us) m(inus)*. In the seventh line possibly *Hic e(st)* is intended, but beyond this nothing further can be attempted.

In the neighbourhood of Cawfields Mile Castle there have also been recently found two Roman milestones. One of them bore the inscription (divested of ligatures)—

IMP. CAES. M. AVREL  
SEVER. ALEXANDRO  
PI. FEL. AVG. P. M. TR. P  
COS. P. P. CVR. CL. XENEPHON  
TE. LEG. AVG. PR. PR.  
A. PETR. M. P. XVIII.

which expanded reads *Imperatore Cæsare Marco Aurelio Severo Alexandro Pio Felice Augusto Pontifice Maximo Tribunitia Potestate Consule Patre Patriæ Curante Claudio Xenephonte Legato Pro-Prætor. A. Petrianis milia passuum xviii.* As I have already communicated to the Institute this milestone possesses a double value. In the first place it informs us that it was set up at eighteen Roman miles from *Petriana*, which approximately agrees with the distance of the place where it was found from Hexham, and this town I had identified with *Petriana* in 1881 on the evidence of inscriptions. In the second place we gather the information that Claudius Xenephon, the date of whose tenure of power in Britain had been previously unknown, was Imperial Legate here in the reign of Alexander Severus. Owing to the letters A. P. at the commencement of the last line being nearly obliterated and not legible, Dr. Bruce at first doubted the correctness of the reading A. PETR, but there seems to be little (if any) doubt on the point. The stone is round and rough and much marked with the pick.

The other milestone is also round and very much worn. Dr. Bruce says the only letters he could identify were—

AI  
NVS  
RIAN  
AVG.

This may be of Hadrian's reign as Dr. Bruce thinks, in which case the reading would be *Imp(erator) Cæs(ar) (Traja)nus Had(rian)us Aug(ustus)*, &c., but the milestones of Hadrian were generally very large and the letters well executed. It seems, therefore, probable that this may be of a later date, as it is rudely lettered. Its height is four feet two inches.

Another very puzzling stone was also found near Cawfields. It has possibly been part of a larger one, subsequently used as a building stone. The letters are much weathered, indistinct, and some doubtful. As far as can be made out they seem to be—

CDVETRO.  
IINDINISI.

Possibly part of some such name as SECVNDINI may be in the last line.

Another fragmentary inscription is on the edge of a thick slab, now seventeen inches in length, and on which, Dr. Bruce says, "may have stood a statue of Mars." It seems possible that it is the same, as that which I have named in *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 261, recorded in Gibson's "Camden." The letters remaining, which are now on the very edge, are—

MAR —

The whole of the above-named stones are now preserved by Mr. Clayton in his Museum at Chesters.

At Lincoln there was found, in Hungate, a portion of a tombstone inscribed—

.... V, . . . L . . .  
EC. ALAE. II.  
ASTOR. VIXIT  
ANNIS. LXX.

It commemorates a *decurio* (whose name is lost) of the second *ala* of the Astures, a regiment which was quartered for a long period at *Cilurnum* on the Roman Wall. The spelling of the word as *Astorum* instead of *Asturum* is peculiar. Horsley, in his *Britannia Romana*, says that he thought he detected the same spelling of the word in an inscription found at Benwell in Northumberland, and argued from it that an *ala* of the *Asti*, a people of Liguria, were named, but there is no doubt that in each case the Astures were meant.

In July, I had sent to me by the Yorkshire Archæological Association, two photographs of an altar about three feet in height, found at Longwood near Slack, the ancient *Cambodunum*. It bears an inscription which contains several ligatures, but which reads as

D E O  
S. BRIGANT  
ET. N. AVG  
T. AVR. QVINTVS  
D. D. P. ET S.S.

Amongst several peculiarities about this altar, one seems to be that the stone cutter has originally commenced the second line with B, thus omitting s for Sancto. On find-

ing out his mistake he has cut the s upon the B, and has added the latter letter (reversed) to the left side of the upright stroke of the R which had previously been produced in an upward direction to form the I. The consequence is that these three letters are in one ligulate form. There is room after the r at the end of this line for other letters of which faint traces appear to remain, and which I think have been VM. I would therefore read the whole inscription as *Deo S(ancto) Brigantum et N(umini) Aug(usti), T(itus) Aur(elius) Quintus D(ecreto) D(ecurionum) P(osuit) et S(usceptum) S(olvit)*. The translation is "To the holy god of the Brigantes, and to the divinity of the Emperor, Titus Aurelius Quintus, by decree of the decurions has placed (this) and has performed (his) undertaking." The only other feasible expansion of the second line would be, I think, *S(ancto) Briganti*, "To the holy god Brigans." However this may be, we previously knew only of a female deity, *Brigantia*, presiding over the tribe of the Brigantes. We now know that she had a partner in the form of a male god, in their worship. The altar is now in the possession of the Yorkshire Archaeological Association. The peculiarities I have before named, make the second line of the inscription look in some lights as if it were BERIGANT.

Early in the year Mr. D. Geddes of Blackburn found in the bed of the Ribble, about four hundred yards above Ribchester, the lower portion of what has been a large inscribed stone. The fragment in its present state is



thirty-two inches wide and one foot high. The only letters visible are—

..... N . . . . A . . . . .  
 ..... CVRAMIC .....  
 ..... SDIICF . . IVS  
 .....



It has probably been part of a tombstone, but beyond the word CVRAM or CVRA M in the second existing line, and what seems to have been FILIVS at the end of the third, nothing can be gathered from it. Possibly the upper portion of the stone may be found at some future time.

During this year also, the Rev. R. E. Hooppell, has described to the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries the former existence of a Roman bridge over the river Wear at Hylton near Sunderland, amongst some of the stones of which, dredged up from the river's bed in 1865, was one bearing in its centre, a circular plate of white metal. This plate was torn out of the slab by means of a crowbar and has since perished. It bore an inscription which was only partially legible to the discoverer, a Mr. Lister, who however made a drawing of the portion which he could read. This is said to have been—round the circumference

IM D AVG.

And in the centre :

S C

From this Dr. Hooppell conjectures that the Emperor Domitian has been named in the inscription around the plate. It is manifestly impossible either to confirm or refute this conjecture. But as to the letters s c, which Dr. Hooppell expands *S(enatus) C(onsulto)*, I would suggest *S(trator) C(onsularis)* as their meaning. The Senate (as regards the provinces at least) never interfered in the making of roads, bridges, &c., that would be the business of the *Præses* or *Legatus*.

Since the above was written, Mr. Hodges (of Hexham) and Mr. Robinson have reported to the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries that they had examined the site at Hylton, and come to the conclusion that instead of a bridge a stone causeway had crossed the river. This would well agree with the work of the *Strator*. On the continent a *Strator* connected with the Appian way is mentioned in an inscription, and the name of another occurs in an inscription in Germany.

I also desire in this paper to put upon record the present location of two stones which I have previously described. In vol. xxxvii, p. 147, of the *Journal*, I de-

scribed a milestone of the reign of Numerian found at Kenchester. This has lately been removed from Dormington to the Hereford Museum. In the same vol. p. 137, I described a stone found at Goldcliff, in Monmouthshire, which has lately been removed to the museum at Caerleon.

In my list of inscriptions for 1881, (*Journal*, vol. xxxix, p. 362) I have given the inscription on a tile found at Lincoln (C VIB EXO) and suggested that the last word might be expanded *exo(rnavit)*. Mr. Roach Smith however writes to me that he prefers *ex o(fficina)*, in this case the words would be *C(aii) Vib(ii)*.