

ART. XXI.—*On a Torque of late Celtic Type found in Carlisle.* By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A.

*Read at Kendal, July 7th, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to exhibit to the Society a bronze beaded Torque of late Celtic type, which was found recently in deepening a cellar on the west side of English Street, Carlisle. The finders hawked it about Carlisle, and it was purchased by Mr. Fisher, of Bank Street, to whose kindness I have been on several occasions indebted for its loan. It is an imitation of a row of coarse or large beads threaded upon a thick string, and tied round the neck.

"It will be remembered," writes Dr. Birch, "that the most primeval barrows occasionally contain rude beads of opaque glass with undulating lines, commonly called serpents' eggs, or else of a thick rough porcelain, sometimes reeded externally. When a transition took place to a higher degree of civilisation among the Celts, and the art of smelting metals became known, the stone weapons and ruder decorations of those races seem to have been replaced by metallic ornaments still preserving their original type. The most remarkable torc of this kind is that\* belonging to Mr. Sedgewick, of Skipton, and found lying upon two upright stones under a horizontal stone at the side of the hills between Embsay and Barden."†

The Carlisle Torque exactly resembles the one mentioned by Dr. Birch, except that it has only ten beads, instead of twelve. It consists of ten disc-like beads, the part representing the string being slightly elastic, and capable of being detached; it is retained in position by two conical pins, which fit in corresponding sockets in the beaded portion. The beads vary in size; the diameter of the two middle

\* Engraved in the *Archæologia*, vol. 31, p. 517; also *Archæological Journal*, vol. 3, p. 32.

† On the Torc of the Celts, *Archæological Journal*, vol. ii, p. 368, vol. iii, pp. 27, 32.

or inner beads being about  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch; they decrease to the two outer ones, which are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch. The chord of the beaded arc is just 4 inches. The other portion, which went behind the neck, represents a squared cord, set lozenge-ways to the neck; the two inner sides are smooth, and the two outer hatched. The diameter is  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the weight 6 oz. 15 dwts. It is of very yellow coloured metal.

Mr. Evans, F.R.S., F.S.A., assigns this variety of torques (the beaded torques) to the late Celtic or early Iron age rather than to the Bronze Period.\*

It may be more than a coincidence that the only inscription in Britain, in which the phrase *torquata* has been met with, was found also on the west side of English Street, about 200 feet to the south of where this Torque occurred. It is No. 498 in the "Lapidarium Septentrionale."

. . . . . LVCA  
RAEF ALAE AVGVSTAE  
PETRIANAE TORQ M C R  
D D

. . . . . LUCA  
præfectus alæ Augustæ

Petrianæ torquatæ milliariæ civium Romanorum dedicavit.

Dr. M'Caul (cited in the Lapidarium) says :—

"I rather think every man in this ala was entitled to wear a torque as a badge of honour, not improbably with some difference as to the metal."

Can this Carlisle Torque be a relic of the Ala Petriana ?

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\* Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain, p. 381.