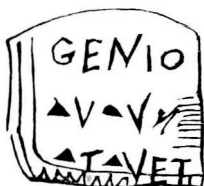




## An Inscribed Roman Fragment from Shoemaker's Row

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**T**HE Roman inscription lately discovered in Shoemaker's Row, Northgate Street, was found, as Mr. Charles Brown tells me, lying loose near the bases of the columns described to the Society by Mr. Gleadowe. It is a red sandstone block, 8 inches in height and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in width; the inscription is perfect only at the left-hand top corner. The extant letters, with the triangular stops before and after some of them, are quite distinct, viz. :—



They are, in line one,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ths inches high; in line two nearly 2 inches high. *Genio* was, I doubt not, the first word of the inscription; above it is a trace of some now lost ornamentation on the top of the stone. We may complete :—

*Genio* [*leg(ionis) xx.*]

*V(aleria) V(ictricis)* [*Sacrum*]

*T. Vet*[....]

that is: "Erected to the Genius of the Twentieth Legion, Valeria Victrix, by T. Vet....." (perhaps

Vettius or Veturius.) I have said something about the character of this and similar inscriptions to the Genius of the Legion and its Centuries, in a note on a recently discovered altar to the Genius of a Century (see the Society's Journal, Vol. VI., p. 76). I may here add one or two remarks. An altar or other dedication to the Genius of a Legion might seem to be most naturally erected in or near the Shrine of the Legion—that is, at the head-quarters or Prætorium; and the fact that this fragment was found near the centre of the fortress, where the Prætorium must have been, and near the bases of massive columns, may suggest that these bases are actually part of the Prætorium buildings. The idea is in itself probable enough, but it is proper to add, that so far as our scanty evidence from other legionary "camps" helps us, the dedications *Genio legionis* do not seem to be confined to any one part of the fortress. Moreover, the fragment now under consideration was found lying loose, not *in situ*. We ought, therefore, to refrain from drawing positive conclusions from the character of the inscription to the character of the bases.

