

A Description of a Silver Ring found on Towton Moor, in the County of York, in 1770, and presented by the Rev. WILLIAM TURNER to the Society, in a Letter to Mr. ADAMSON, Secretary.

Scilicet et tempus veniet, quum finibus illis
 Agricola, incurvo terram molitus aratro,
 Exesa inveniet scabrâ rubigine pila,
 Aut gravibus rastris galeas pulsabit inanes,
 Grandiaque effosis mirabitur ossa sepulchris.

Geor. Lib. I. 493.

DEAR SIR,

THE application of these beautiful lines of Virgil, to the objects of our association, by your Brother Secretary, in his very appropriate introductory address, reminded me that I possessed a relic of one of the severest contests which ever took place among our countrymen, the famous battle of Towton, which terminated the civil war between the Houses of York and Lancaster. It was fought on Palm Sunday, 1461; the Lancastrian's had 60,000 engaged, the Yorkists 40,000; victory, however, declared in favour of the latter, and Rapin states, from the Chronicles of Hall and Holinshed, that 36,776 were left dead upon the field; among whom were the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, the Lords Dacres and Wells, Sir John Nevil, and many other distinguished persons.

When I was a boy (I think about 1770), Towton Moor (an extensive district of open-field between Saxton and Towton, north-east of Aberford, near Ferrybridge,) was inclosed by act of Parliament. Many traces of the effects of this dreadful battle were discovered in every allotment, affording an ample commentary upon the lines at the head

of this letter. Among others, the enclosed ring, which I beg leave to offer to the acceptance of the Society, was ploughed up, and brought for sale by the countryman who found it, to a silversmith in Wakefield, of whom my father purchased it. It is, you will perceive, a plain silver hoop, bearing on its outside the following inscription, **IE . NAZARENUS . REX . JUDEORUM .** i. e.

Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judæorum.

Whether, from the nature of the inscription, it may be fair to argue, that it belonged to some ecclesiastical person, I know not. It is well known, that many connected with the clerical profession did not scruple, in these times of disorder, to engage personally in military affairs.—But it is by no means improbable, that laymen might choose to put themselves under the protection of some such sacred inscription as this. That it was adopted and worn, probably by some eminent person, as an amulet or charm, which it was hoped might preserve its wearer, is, at least, very probable. That it failed of its expected effect, the circumstances, in which it was found, furnish a sufficient evidence.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your very obedient servant,

WILLIAM TURNER.

Percy-street, August 4, 1813,