

An Account of a Brass Coin of the Emperor HADRIAN, in a Letter from Mr. J. ADAMSON, Secretary, to the Rev. J. HODGSON, Secretary.

See Plate IV. Fig. 4.

I SEND you, for the inspection of the Society, a coin of the Emperor Hadrian, in middle brass, which was found many years ago in one of the principal Roman stations in Northumberland; and which, I think, from the local connection between the Society and the history of Hadrian, will be interesting to the members.

The coin bears the following legend:—

Obv. IMP. CAESAR. TRAIANVS. HADRIANVS. AVG.

Rev. PONT. MAX. TR. POT. COS. III. S. C.

and at the feet of the figure BRITANNIA. Eckhell, in his *Doctrina Nummorum Veterum*, thus describes it:—

BRITANNIA. S. C. mulier sedens, dextero pede rupibus imposito; sinistra caput sustentans d. hastam gerit, cubito in prægrandem clypeum innixo.

All the Roman coins which relate to Britain, and which form a curious historical series, are of considerable rarity, especially those on which the province is personated. Some, which I have had an opportunity of inspecting, have been in a very indifferent state of preservation, which circumstance gives additional value to that in my possession, which, although struck nearly 1700 years ago, and probably to commemorate the arrival of the Emperor in Britain, may

be said to be nearly perfect. The coin is covered with a rich case of green patina.

An imperfect coin, similar to mine, is mentioned as having been in Mr. Thoresby's Museum, and is thus noticed:—

“ TRAIANVS. HADRIANVS. AVG.

“ POT. COS. III. S. C. *exergue* BRITANNIA.

“ The Emperor Hadrian came into the Island An. 123, and having reduced the Britains, built the noted wall to separate this part from Scotland. Upon this very choice medal Britain is represented sitting upon a shield, with a spear in her hand, as that in Speed's Chron. p. 96. I am sorry I could not learn where it was found; but the man who paid it in his fee-farm rents to the Lord of the Manor had slipped away before I perceived it, that he might not be obliged to change it.” *

In the first volume of Camden, in the plate of Roman coins relating to Britain, there is an ill-executed engraving of a coin differing from mine in the following particulars only, viz. the figure is the same, excepting a trifling difference in the shield, which difference, and the variety in the legend, are probably owing to a mistake by the person who copied it. It reads,

Obv. IMP. CAES. TRAJANVS. HADRIANVS. AVG.

Rev. PONT. MAX. TR. P. COS. III.

JOHN ADAMSON.

Dec. 12, 1816.

* See Whitaker's edition of Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis*—Catalogue of Antiquities.

