

No. XXII.—*Account of an Excavation recently made within the Roman Station of Cilurnum. By JOHN CLAYTON, Esq.—Communicated in a Letter to the Secretaries.*

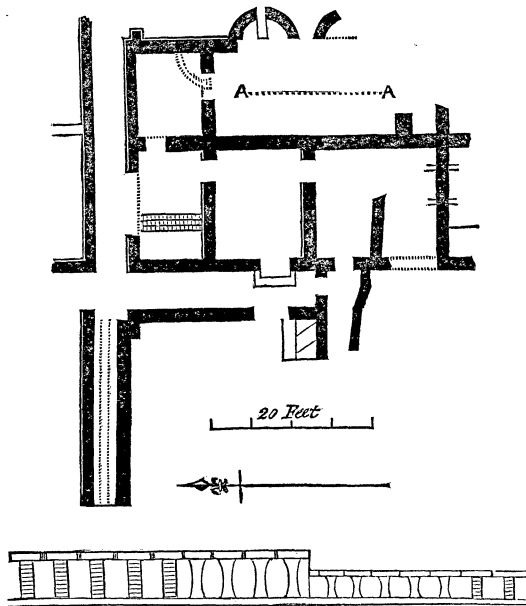
Chesters, 6th November, 1843.

SIRS,

Understanding that a statement of the results of a recent excavation within the Roman Station of Cilurnum is desired by your Society, I will endeavour to supply such a statement, begging, however, that it may be received as that of a very unlearned antiquary.

The Eastern Rampart of the Station of Cilurnum (the sixth *per lineam valli*, according to the *Notitia Imperii*) ranges nearly two hundred yards along the right bank of the North Tyne River; the station contains an area of nearly eight acres, and though the surface has been for many years grass-grown, yet the whole outline of the fortifications is still distinctly visible. About the middle of this rampart may be traced the gate through which the military way, sheltered by the wall of Severus, passed from the camp down to the bridge across the Tyne, of which the massive remains still cumber the stream; within the rampart and to the south of the gate, the surface of the ground was somewhat elevated, and formed a green knoll, which seemed to invite antiquarian research, and on the application to this elevated spot of the pickaxe and spade, the baths and Sudatorium of the station were discovered. The removal of the earth on the west side of the buildings disclosed the entrance by a flight of steps, much worn by the feet of the passenger; these steps lead into a saloon or vestibule, from which passages diverge, to the right and left, into other apartments. In the room on the left hand was found, in good preservation, a Bath lined with red cement; beyond this are two apartments (apparently a Sudatorium), the floors of which are composed of two layers of flags, with a

layer of red cement between them, and are supported on pillars three feet high ; some of those pillars are of stone and others of square flat bricks. At the east end of the Sudatorium are the remains of the furnaces, and the soot in the flues was found as fresh as if it had been produced by fires lighted the day before. In the room on the right hand of the saloon—which seems to have been more disturbed—there are less distinct remains of Baths, with flues communicating with them ; but in the room beyond it (a Sudatorium) the floor of flags covered with plaster, and supported by pillars of stone two feet high is preserved entire, though pressed down in some places by the weight which has been upon it. When this station ceased to be used for the purposes of war, and the Roman legions had permanently left the island, it would seem that the inhabitants of the country, in order to make the land productive as soon as possible have thrown down the upper part of the walls of the buildings, which have fallen inwards, and they have then levelled the surface and covered it with earth, under the protection of which, these remains of Roman luxury have lain undisturbed for 1400 years.



I send you a ground plan of the buildings so far as they have been explored ; you will observe that, though on a much larger scale, they resemble in shape and arrangement the baths described by Sir William Gell as having been discovered in Italy, amongst the ruins of the ancient city of *Stabiæ*.

In the room in which the Bath is, was found the Statue of a River God, whether representing the Tiber, or Tyne does not appear ; the figure (about 4 feet in length) is in a reclining posture, and though executed in coarse stone, is not without some gracefulness of attitude and proportions. On the next page you have a sketch of it.



There have been likewise found in the buildings and the passages communicating with them a stone, with the Centurial mark on it, and the name *SIMILIS*, and several other relics of their former occupants, which I will briefly enumerate, *viz.* :—

A Fibula of the ancient mixed brass, similar to that in Gordon, pl. 50, fig. 9, and here drawn of the full size.

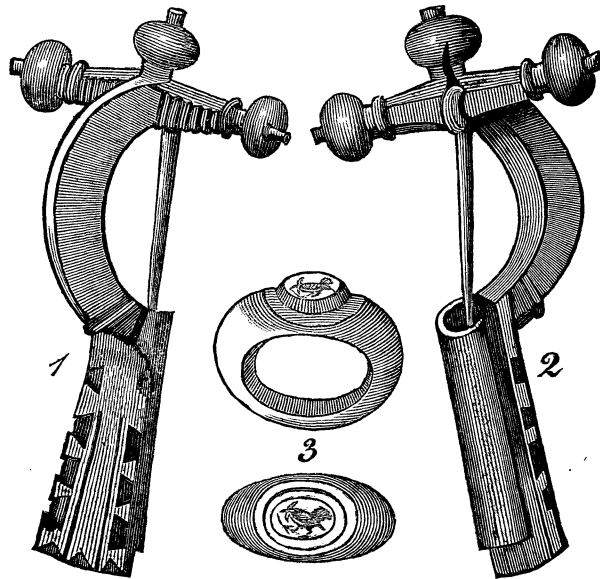


Fig. 1, the Front.

Fig. 2, the Back.

A massive silver signet Ring, with a cornelian stone, on which is engraved a cock pecking an ear of wheat.—*See* fig. 3.

A Stylus of brass and two of ivory, two Javelin Heads, and upwards of fifty Coins of various Emperors, from Hadrian down to Gratian—none of them of any value or rarity, but, nevertheless, I subjoin a list of the several varieties, as exhibiting the ordinary currency of the Roman camp during the last 200 years of the sway of that people in Britain.

I am, SIRs,

With much respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN CLAYTON.

LIST OF THE SEVERAL VARIETIES OF ROMAN COINS FOUND ON
OPENING THE BATHS IN THE STATION OF CILURNUM, 1843.

<i>Date.</i>		
A. D. 119.	Copper.	Head of Hadrian. HADRIANUS AUG. COS. III. The Reverse defaced.
A. D. 207.	Silver.	Head of Caracalla. ANTONINUS PIUS AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —The figure of a Soldier standing with a Spear in his right hand, a Club in his left, with three captives at his feet. PONTIF. TR. P.
A. D. 218.	Silver.	Head of Heliogabalus. ANTONINUS PIUS AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —The Emperor sacrificing to the Sun, with a Patera in his right hand, and in his left a branch of Laurel. SUMMUS SACERDOS AUG.
[Each of these Emperors styled himself "Antoninus Pius."]		
A. D. 262.	Copper.	Head of Victorinus. IMP. C. VICTORINUS AUG. Reverse defaced.
A. D. 268.	Copper.	Head of Tetricus Præses Galliæ. IMP. TETRICUS AUG. The Reverse defaced.
—	—	Head of Tetricus the Son. C. PIVESUS TETRICVS CÆS. <i>Reverse</i> —Figure of Peace. PAX AUG.

<i>Date.</i>		
A. D. 268.	Copper.	Head of Claudius Gothicus. IMP. CLAUDIUS AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —A figure of Jupiter, with a Thunderbolt in his right hand, and a Spear in his left. JOVI VICTORI.
A. D. 276.	—	Head of Probus. IMP. C.M. AUR. PROBUS AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —Figure of Justice, with a Balance. ÆQUITAS AUG.
A. D. 288.	—	Head of Carausius. IMP. C. CARAUSIUS P. F. AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —A figure of Providence, in her right hand a Globe, in her left a Cornucopia. PROVID. AUG. S. P. C.
A. D. 312.	—	Head of Constantine. CONSTANTINUS AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —A Tower. PROVIDENTIZÆ AUG.
—	—	Head of Constantine, with the same Legend. <i>Reverse</i> —A Cippus, with the letters VOTIS XX., and a Globe on the top of it. BEATA TRANQUILLITAS.
A. D. 312.	Copper,	Head of Constantine. CONSTANTINUS MAX. AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —Two Soldiers, with Spears and Bucklers, and a military Standard between them.
A. D. 326.	—	Head of Constantine, Jun. CONSTANTINUS IUN. NOB. C. <i>Reverse</i> —Within a circle of Laurel, VOT. X. CÆSARUM NOSTRORUM.
A. D. 337.	—	Head of Constans. CONSTANS P. F. AUG. <i>Reverse</i> —Two Soldiers standing with the Imperial Standard between them, on which is the letter M. GLORIA EXERCITUS TR. P.
—	—	A Head, helmeted, looking to the left. URBS ROMA. <i>Reverse</i> —A She-wolf, suckling Romulus and Rhemus. P. CONST.
A. D. 355.	—	Head of Helena, daughter of Constantine the Great, and wife of Julian the Apostate. FL. JUL. HELENA AUG.

- Date.*
- A. D. 355. Copper. *Reverse*—A Female figure, standing with her right hand extended holding a Staff, and a Spear in her left hand.
PAX PUBLICA.
- A. D. 364. ——— Head of Valentinian.
D.N. VALENTINIANUS P. F. AUG.
Reverse—A figure of Victory, walking, with a chaplet of Laurel in her right hand, and a branch of Palm in her left.
SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ
OF. II.
CONST.
- A. D. 365. ——— Head of Valentinian.
D.N. VALEN..... AUG.
Reverse—The figure of a Soldier, dragging a Captive by the hair with his right hand, and holding the Imperial Standard in his left.
GLORIA ROMANORUM.
- A. D. 377. ——— Head of Gratian.
D.N. GRATIANUS P. F. AUG.
Reverse—A figure of Victory, walking, with a chaplet of laurel in her right hand, and a branch of Palm in her left.
SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ.
S. TR.
- ——— Head of Gratian, with the same legend.
Reverse—A Soldier standing, with the right hand supporting a Standard bearing the monogram of Christ, and the left resting on a Shield.
GLORIA NOVI SÆCULI.