

ROMAN REMAINS FOUND AT ADDERSTONE, NEAR BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

IN May, 1856, as some labourers were engaged in draining a field at Adderstone, on the farm of Mr. Anderson, the property of George Wilson, Esq., Alnwick, they came upon a vessel containing a quantity of Roman remains, consisting of 28 coins, a brass scale beam and weights, with remains of scales, and an article of remarkably unique appearance, composed of a metal resembling the consistency of tin and lead.

The coins extend over the reigns which took place from Hadrian to Aurelian inclusive, embracing a period of nearly 160 years, during the occupation of Britain by the Romans, beginning about A.D. 117, and ending A.D. 275, taking the extremes of those reigns. Six of the coins are so much corroded and decomposed as to make the task of deciphering them, to even the most practised eye, utterly hopeless; the remainder are in a better state of preservation, and have all been determined. There are 28 of them in all, 16 large bronze (9th size according to Ackerman), and 12 small ones of billon (5th size, following the same authority).

The following is the chronological series, with the periods of the reigns of the several emperors:—

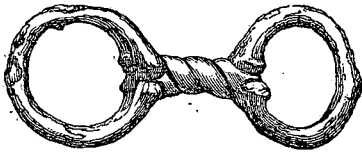
1 HADRIAN, from..... A.D. 117 to 138	1 CARACALLA, from.... A.D. 196 to 217
1 ANTONINUS PIUS 138 .. 161	8 POSTUMUS 260 .. 267
1 VERUS 161 .. 169	1 SALONINA, WIFE OF GALLI-
2 COMMODUS..... 166 .. 192	ENUS 253 .. 268
1 M. AURELIUS 161 .. 180	1 AURELIANUS 270 .. 275
3 FAUSTINA THE YOUNGER,	1 LUCIUS ÆLIUS.
WIFE OF M. AURELIUS.	3 small, illegible.
1 SEVERUS 197 .. 211	3 large, ditto.

The coins have been submitted to the examination of Mr. Roach Smith, and the above determinations have been confirmed by him.



The scale beam, which is of bronze, about 8 inches long, still quite perfect and nearly evenly balanced, has the rings still attached by which

the beam and scales, when in use, were suspended. The rings are formed of wire of the same metal as the beam, soldered together, but the solder has been decomposed, and the parts where they were joined are now open. The scales are very much wasted. The parties who made the discovery unfortunately scoured the beam with sand, leaving it in its present state. A Roman beam of a similar description has, I am informed, been recently found in Kent, and is now in the possession of Mr. Roach Smith.



The nondescript article consists of two circular rings, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, made of a rod of metal a quarter of an inch thick, the rod twisted together for about an inch and a half in the centre, bridle-bit fashion, forming the junction by which the rings are connected. Some persons who have seen it are of opinion that the whole has been cast solid. It has been examined by several experienced antiquaries, but none of them have been able to guess at its use, and their ingenuity has been baffled to offer a conjecture as to its object in Roman economy. Has it not formed a part of the mountings of the harness of a Roman chariot? Probably there are many things in common use by distant nations of the present day, the purposes of which we should, without information respecting them, be utterly unable to divine.

The field in which the remains were discovered lies in an angle formed by the great north road on the west, and the road running eastward by Adderstone to Lucker on the north. It would appear formerly to have been in a forest state, and subsequently a bog, as in the course of draining through the dark peaty soil the workmen came upon the trunks of several large oak trees, some of which they cut through; others, where the placing of draining tiles could be accomplished with less labour, they excavated underneath, leaving the trees otherwise undisturbed further than was necessary for the completion of the work in which they were engaged. The man who discovered them was digging in a drain, between four and five feet deep, and threw them to the side in what appeared to be a box, but which when thrown out went immediately and completely to pieces, so much so that no part of it was attempted to be preserved. The coins and other articles were scattered on the side of the drain, but were afterwards collected by the workmen present.

What gives additional interest to the discovery, is the locality in which it was made. At a short distance stand Waren, Budle, Spindle-

ston, and Outchester, at the latter of which places are still the remains of Roman works. Outchester or Ulchester, evidently a name alluding to Roman occupation, stands on the north side of the Warn rivulet, and seems to have been intended to secure the pass of the river and the harbour of Warn, and it is within two miles from that place where the present remains were found. The most eminent of our local antiquaries have advanced the theory, that there was an ancient Roman way from Budle by the Charltons southwards, and the present discovery is an additional fact tending to confirm that opinion. Adderstone, whichever direction that route might take, would be in its immediate proximity, and a further and more careful investigation of the district would, in all likelihood, be productive of corroborative evidence elucidatory of that theory, and would probably repay the labour of the Northumbrian archæologist.

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