

Some important events must have occurred on these dates to warrant this double reference to them. Cockermouth Castle is about a mile distant from the Roman station of Papecastle, and the stones of which it has been built are supposed to have been derived from the Roman camp.

The reference to the troop who reared the altar is of a provoking character. The Roman names of the stations on the Wall west of Amboglanna have not been ascertained. An inscription that should give us any information upon this point would be peculiarly acceptable. The Notitia gives us this account of the 14th station:—"The præfect of a detachment (*numerus*) of Moors styled the Aurelian at ABALLABA." Horsley places ABALLABA at Watch Cross; Hodgson at Stanwicks. In this new inscription we have mention of a band of Frisian Aballavensians, but we have no indication of the precise locality of Aballava.

Again, the mention of the Frisians is puzzling. At VINDOBALA, the modern Rutchester, the Notitia places the first cohort of the Frixagi. As the Frixagi are not known to geographers, it is thought that we should read Frisiones or Frisiani. The Frisians are mentioned in the Sydenham rescript in the time of Trajan, and in the Rivington rescript in the time of Hadrian. They are also mentioned on a stone found at Manchester, recorded by Camden. It is interesting to meet with yet another notice of them. On the whole, however, we could wish for more definite information.

MONTHLY MEETING, 5 DECEMBER, 1865.

John Hodgson Hinde, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.—*From Publishing Societies.* Sussex Archæological Collections, Vol. xvii. — *Thé Canadian Journal*, September, 1865. — *Quarterly Journal of the Kilkenny Archæological Society*, April, 1865. — *From Mr. J. G. Forster.* Newcastle in the Olden Time: being 155 views reprinted from Richardson's Table Book. — *From Mr. Brockett.* The Hawks Memorial, reprinted from the "*Gateshead Observer*." — *From M. Boucher de Perthes.* Antiquités Celtiques et Antédiluviennes, par M. Boucher de Perthes, Tome Troisième, 1864. — *Memoires de la Société Impériale d'Émulation d'Abbeville*, 1861-2-3-4-5, première partie.

LOCAL PRINTS.—*Mr. Edward Thompson* has presented the following, framed:—East view of All Saints' Church, Newcastle, Robt. Hardy

del., Robt. Pollard sculpt. — Chancel of St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle, 1840, Mark Hall Gibson. — Buck's View of Tinemouth, 1728. — South-east view of the Church of St. Dunstan in the East, Jos. Skelton sculp. 1817.

RUNIC INSCRIPTION ON BARONSPIKE.

BY EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D.

IN the month of March, 1864, a shepherd was watching some ewes on Baronspike, a high range of crags, or rather of huge stones, lying about two miles to the north-east of Bewcastle Church. He suddenly observed some faint traces of letters on a large square stone, facing to the north-west, and which was then illuminated by the slanting rays of the setting sun. On examining the letters he found them of a form totally unknown to him. The inscription consisted of three lines and a quarter, in letters about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. No information of this discovery reached us at Newcastle, but about two months ago our attention was called to it by a letter from a learned antiquary in Copenhagen, who stated that it was noticed in *The Builder*, for October 8th, 1864. On referring to this number of that journal, I found the following paragraph:—

“Last winter a shepherd discovered an old inscription on one of the large rocks at Barnspike, a long range of crags cresting the hills about three miles to the east of Bewcastle Church. The inscription is Scandinavian or old Norse, and may perhaps be read thus—

BARNR HRAITA AT GILLESBUETH
IAS UAS DAUTHR I TRICU ROB
TE VAULKS AT FADRLAN NU LLANRGSEL

Barnr cut this in memory of Gillesbueth, who was slain in a truce by Robt. de Vaulx, for his patrimony again coveted.”

“The inscription is on the north-west side of a large crag, and well protected from the weather, but is almost illegible,” &c., &c.

On Friday, November 10th of this year, we rode over to the spot, and a herd-boy, from the High Grains, soon pointed out to us the inscription. Our astonishment was great, for instead of illegible or almost illegible characters, we found the surface of the stone covered with three bands of black paint, while each letter had been worked out with a sharp tool so that it looked like a thing of yesterday. On close examination,