

"*Jo: Byron., Chr. Byron.* Quarterly, 1 and 4, The three bendlets of Byron, but not enhanced. 2 and 3, On a bend three annulets, in sinister chief a cross patee (fitchee?) *Crest.*—A Mermaid.

BARTON IN THE WILLOWES.—A property conveyed in 1668 as a "messuage *burgage* or tenement—within the *lordshipp* of Barton aforesaid." In a previous description of 1654, the word 'burgage' is omitted.

THE FIVE SITTING STATUES, OF ROMAN DATE, IN THE MUSEUM OF THE SOCIETY.

BY W. H. BLACK, F.S.A.

WHEN I was at Newcastle, and spent day after day in the examination of the precious collection of Roman antiquities collected by the Society of Antiquaries there, I was particularly struck by the appearance of the *five sitting statues*, which were brought from one of the stations along the line of the Roman Wall. They agree in general appearance with the other mutilated statues which have been found elsewhere in *threes*, except that yours have not baskets in their laps, as the others have. I promised a note in explanation of my view of their design, and now I fulfil my promise.

The group of three sitting female figures, preserved in the Guildhall Library, was found in London, and has been hitherto supposed to represent certain mythological personages, under the title of *Deæ Matres*, as you may see in our friend Mr. C. R. Smith's "Illustrations of Roman London," and elsewhere. But, if goddesses, why bearing baskets? That accompaniment to a female figure always denotes, in the "Notitia Utriusque Imperii," of Alciatus, Pancirollus, Gronovius, and Bocking, and especially in the finely illuminated MS. of that instructive record, contained in the Imperial Library at Paris, *the revenues of a port or province*, metaphorically its fruits. I have therefore explained, but not until now in writing, those figures as representing *the three oldest provinces of Roman Britain*, bearing their *vectigal* in baskets. In the "Notitia," a standing figure represents a tributary or taxpaying region; a sitting figure, one of great dignity, as "Roma" and "Campania," in that book. The three standing figures of "Asia, Insulæ, Hellespontus," bearing baskets, were produced with much force by Selden, in his famous work the "Mare Clausum," to prove that the Romans drew revenues from their sovereignty over the narrow seas of the Mediterranean; and

those figures are, as he justly says, majestic, and crowned with turreted crowns. He describes the contents of their baskets or vessels as *golden coins*, and they are gilt in the MSS., but in the sculptures they resemble flattish apples or oranges, and are clearly fruits.

But your *five* figures bear no vessels at all. Hence I suppose that they signify *the five provinces of Britain*, of a later age, that of the "*Notitia*," which contains *five*, three of which (*viz.* Britannia Prima, Britannia Secunda, and Flavia Cæsariensis,) were Presidential, and two of which were *Consular*, (*viz.* Maxima Cæsariensis, and Valentia). I suppose also that Britain became at length self-supporting, and that the absence of fruits may have denoted freedom from tribute to the Roman *Fiscus*. If I am right in my political interpretation, the date of your figures is not only later than that of the others, (say about the end of fourth century,) but was before the addition of a *sixth* province, that of the "Islands," which is expressly mentioned in one of the oldest MSS. in the Imperial Collection, namely in the work of Dicuil.

MONTHLY MEETING, 3 JAN., 1866.

John Clayton, Esq., V.P. in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.—*Messrs.* Charles James Spence, 4, Rosella Place, North Shields; Walter John Till, Croydon.

AUDITORS.—*Messrs.* Robert White, W. H. D. Longstaffe.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIR JACOB ASTLEY, KNT., SERGEANT MAIOR GENERAL OF HIS MAJESTIES ARMY COMMANDED BY MY LORD GENERAL, TO MAKE HIS SPEEDY REPAIRE TO NEW CASTLE.

You are first to call the Quarter Master General and all the quarter masters of the foote before you, and to consider of the fittest place where to ledge the foote regiments upon the Tyne of Northumberland side, having a regard to the comoditie of bringing all manner of provision by water, and to have a particular care of my Lord Generalls quarter. — To advance the horse if they give any impediment to the foote as farr as Hexham, and so *eastward* farther into Northumberland,