

THE ALTARS RECENTLY FOUND IN THE ROMAN CAMP AT MARYPORT.

THE North of England is rich in Roman Inscriptions. Comparatively few have been found in the South; but fortunate as we are in this respect, never before, probably, were the antiquaries of this district able to rejoice over such a sudden acquisition of treasure as we have just heard of. In the short space of a month not less than seventeen altars have been exhumed on a spot of ground outside the camp of Maryport, and all of these, with a single exception, bear inscriptions which are distinctly legible.

Before proceeding to notice the altars in detail, I may be permitted to make some observations upon the camp in the vicinity of which they have been found.

When the Romans grasped the throat of England—the isthmus between the Tyne and the Solway—they did it with a tenacity all their own. They not only drew the Wall from sea to sea, but they planted garrisons to the north and south of it, to stem in either direction the first torrent of attack. In addition to this, they seem to have given considerable attention to the fortification of the Cumbrian coast south of the Wall.

Camden, who visited this neighbourhood in 1599, draws attention strongly to the latter fact. Speaking of St. Bees Head, he says (I quote from the contemporary translation of Philemon Holland), “From hence the shore draweth itself back by little and little, and as it appeareth by the heapes of rubbish, it hath been fortified all along by the Romanes wheresoever there was easie landing. For it was the outmost bound of the Roman empire, and the Scots lay sorest upon this coast and infested it most when, as it were, with continual surges of warre they flowed and flocked hither by heapes out of Ireland; and certaine it is that Moresby, a little village where is a road for ships, was one of these fortifications.” Again, speaking of Workington—“a place famous for taking of salmons”—he says, “From hence some thinke there was a wall made to defend the shore in convenient places for four miles or thereabout by Stilico, the potent commander in the Roman state, what time, as the Scots annoyed these coasts out of Ireland. For thus speaketh Britaine of herselfe in

Claudian: '*Me quoque vicinis pereuntem gentibus, munivit Stilico, totam cum Scotus Hibernem movit, et infesto spumavit remige Thetis.*' There are also (he goes on to say) continued ruins and broken walls to be seen as far as to Elne Mouth. Seated upon the height of a hill, the camp hath a goodly prospect farre into the Irish sea, but now corne growes where the towne stood, nevertheless many expresse footings thereof are evidently to be seene, the ancient vaults stand open, and many altars, stones with inscriptions and statues are here gotten out of the ground, which J. Sinhous, a very honest man, in whose grounds they are digged up, keepeth charily, and hath placed orderly about his house."

I have no doubt that Camden has correctly described the manner in which this coast was fortified by the Romans, but I am quite sure that he and his authority, Claudian, are wrong in ascribing the work to Stilico. I have little hesitation in saying that the altars of which we are now to treat were buried in the spot where they have recently been found, two centuries before Stilico appeared upon the stage of the world's history. As it is of importance to fix a time when the Romans seized the magnificent site now occupied by the camp of Maryport, we may as well at once address ourselves to this subject. On two of the altars recently discovered, and on another with which we have been long familiar, the name of Marcus Mænius Agrippa, the tribune, occurs. Now from an inscription which has been found near the modern city of Camerino in central Italy, we learn that M. Mænius Agrippa was a personal friend of the Emperor Hadrian, and that amongst the other offices which he held was that of prefect (or as we would call it admiral) of the British fleet. This enables us to fix the date of these altars. Hadrian was in Britain in the year 120, and it is not improbable that he may have brought his friend Agrippa along with him. Further, as there can be little doubt that the Romans established a camp at Maryport, because it commands the Solway Frith, and all the waters in its vicinity, we see why the admiral of the British fleet was appointed to this station. But we have other evidence than this of the comparatively early occupation of the camp of Maryport by the Romans.

On two altars discovered some time ago, and which are now in the portico of the mansion at Netherhall, we find a prefect named Acilianus, making on one of them a dedication to Jupiter. The date when Acilianus flourished is rendered clear by another of the treasures preserved in the portico, a much-broken slab, which mentions the erection of some building by this prefect, and "for the safety of Antoninus Pius." Antoninus Pius was the immediate successor of Hadrian, and he assumed the purple A.D. 138. The Romans must therefore have been here in the time of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius. The newly discovered altars, excepting

that they supply us with the name of Mænius Agrippa, do not furnish us with a date. Still we are not altogether at a loss upon this subject. The character of an inscription and the form of the letters employed often enable us to judge approximately of its age. In the time of Hadrian the inscriptions were brief and simple, the letters well formed, and there was an entire absence of the practice which was afterwards introduced of uniting two or three letters together after the manner of our diphthongs. Judging from intimations of this character, I would venture to suggest that the latest of these newly found altars belongs to the reign of Antoninus Pius. I am glad to find this opinion corroborated by a gentleman well entitled to speak upon the subject.

Mr. John Buchanan of Glasgow, who is familiar with the inscriptions found upon the Roman Wall in Scotland, all of which belong to the reign of Antoninus Pius, writes to me thus—"These altars, as well as the cut of the letters, closely resemble those found along the Antonine Wall, and I agree with you in conjecturing that their era is about the reign of Antoninus Pius." I think, moreover, not only that these altars were carved at the early period of which I speak, but that they were buried in the spot where they have been found long before the abandonment of Britain by the Romans. I found this opinion not only upon the clearness and sharpness of their sculpture, but upon another circumstance. After the Romans had been long in the country, and had formed matrimonial and other connections with the friendly natives, their own mythology became blended with the superstitions of the people with whom they associated. The native gods were associated with those of Greece and Rome. Now, amongst the recently discovered altars we find no trace of a British divinity. Jupiter is the chief object of worship, twelve altars being dedicated to him; the others are addressed to the Emperor, to Victory, to Mars, and to Vulcan. Had the altars been buried in the third or fourth centuries I think we should have had some traces of the Cumbrian gods *Cocidius* and *Belatucader*, which we do not; and I think, also, that we should have had some indications of the conflict of opinion, which we know was then taking place, in the discovery of some altars dedicated *Dibus Veteribus*—to the *old gods*; and probably, also, some dedication to the Persian god *Mithras*, the worship of whom at that time was exceedingly prevalent.

Before proceeding to form a conjecture (absolute certainty, I fear, is unattainable) as to the causes which led to the interment of the altars before us, it is necessary that we should know the circumstances attending their discovery. The spot on which the altars have been found lies at the distance of about 350 yards from the Roman camp which overlooks the modern town of Maryport, in a northerly direction. The

altars have been clustered together in a space somewhat circular in its character, and of about 60 feet in diameter.

The discovery occurred in this manner:—The owner of the estate in which the camp is situated, J. Pocklington Senhouse, Esq., of Netherhall, having taken into his own hands a portion of ground hitherto cultivated by a tenant, had given orders for having it brought into good condition. As a first step in this process, the plough was driven to a greater depth than had previously been done. Here and there the share struck against large stones which were marked for removal. On the 13th of April, 1870, a stone was dislodged, and on its being removed, a carved block was seen lying beneath it. This proved to be an altar. The attention of Mr. Humphrey Senhouse was called to the circumstance, and he instantly and energetically adopted those measures which have resulted in the discovery of the largest find of altars on record.

It seems that a series of pits had been formed in the circular space of ground to which I have referred. These pits were from four to six feet deep, and usually they penetrated the subsoil (which here is a stiff clay) to some extent. The bottom of several of these pits was paved with "cobble" stones. Into these pits the altars had been put. In no one instance was the face of the altar found lying uppermost. In several cases the inscriptions were lying sideways, in some downwards. Two of the pits contained three altars each; four other pits contained two each; others only one. Besides the holes in which altars were found others were examined in which no perfect altar was discovered, but only broken pieces of altars and a mass of loose stone. The appearances presented by these barren pits led the excavators to suppose that they too had originally been occupied by altars, but that at some period anterior to the present they had been noticed and removed. The altars had been deposited in their beds with care. When more than one had been placed in a pit it was covered over with loose stones and earth before the next was put in, and the second or third was covered in a similar manner. Marks of haste are, however, evident. In one pit the first altar was lying at the bottom with its face downwards, but two others were lying diagonally across it, as if hurriedly thrown in. In some instances portions of the capitals have been broken off the altars, apparently by the force with which they have been projected into their places—the displaced fragments lying beside them.

The question now arises, How came these altars to be here? The first thought which suggests itself to most minds is, Has this been the site of a temple, and are these the altars which were placed within it? A number of circumstances oblige us to abandon this theory. No traces of foundations have been found upon the spot. Roman building stones

have been thrown into the pits, but they have probably been brought from the neighbouring suburban buildings which extended to the north of the station. Had there been a substantial building on this spot, traces of mortar would have been found, but there are none. Had this been a temple, the altars would have been found upon the surface, though covered with a mass of superincumbent ruin, instead of being buried in the way that has been described. And lastly, no one temple would have contained so many as twelve altars to one god: twelve of the altars which we have before us being dedicated to Jupiter. From this circumstance it seems pretty plain that we have here the gatherings of several temples.

These altars have been brought from the camp or temples in its immediate vicinity. Have they, then, been placed here by friends or by foes? Every student of Roman antiquities must at some time or other have experienced an earnest desire to trace in existing remains some evidences of the transference from heathenism to Christianity which took place during the period of the Roman occupation of Britain; and some may be disposed to say that in this most remarkable find we have the wished-for proof. According to this view the garrison have in a body embraced the worship of the one living and true God, and in a fit of righteous indignation have buried out of sight the altars dedicated to their false gods. The care with which the altars have been deposited in the pits and covered up is fatal to this theory. Friends, not foes, to the prevailing idolatry, have placed them where they were found. Had religious enthusiasm led to their removal from the camp, they would have been defaced and broken into pieces, and the fragments would have been thrown over the cliff. The only circumstance giving countenance to this view is the fact that one of the altars to Jupiter is worn on the face as if it had been used as a common whetstone. I do not know that much importance is to be attached to this matter, for probably the reverence which the Romans entertained for their deities was of a very superficial character.

On the supposition, then, that these altars were placed in the pits where they were found with a view to their preservation and that they have been deposited in them towards the latter part of the second century, what was the occasion which led to the adoption of this course? Whenever excavations are made, in the camps or castles of the Roman Wall, proofs are obtained that the garrison manning it have on more than one occasion had to submit to defeat and disaster. Two, if not three, lairs of wood ashes and superincumbent rubbish are uniformly met with. One of these seasons of calamity occurred about A.D. 184. Xiphiline, in his abridgment of Dion Cassius, says, "Commodus was engaged in

several wars with the barbarians. The Britannie war was the greatest of these,—for some of the nations within that island, having passed over the Wall which divided them from the Roman stations, and besides killing a certain commander with his soldiers, having committed much other devastation, Commodus became alarmed and sent Ulpius Marcellus against them.” The Caledonian onslaught thus referred to by Dion Cassius would not extend along the whole line of the Barrier. We have some evidence for believing that *Borcovicus*, the central camp of the line, felt its chief force. In order to repel the invasion and reconstruct the ruined works it would be necessary to concentrate the troops of the whole fortification. In order to do this the soldiers would for a time be withdrawn from those camps which were least threatened with danger. Maryport may have been temporarily deserted on this occasion and the cohort then in garrison may have barely had time to secure the altars dedicated to their gods against insult and injury. On the repression of the rebellion this cohort may have been placed in some other garrison and never returned to recover their altars. Such is the best explanation I can furnish of the circumstances in which these altars have been found. This view is in harmony with the early date of the altars, and the care, yet haste, with which they have been deposited in the ground. I am indebted for the suggestion of it to our Vice-President Mr. Clayton, who has had more experience in the work of Roman excavation than any other individual in the North of England.

But it is time now to introduce the inscriptions to your notice, and this I will do in the order in which the altars were discovered.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | I·O·M·
L·CAMMI
VS·MAXI[M]
VS·PRAEFEC
TVS COH
I·HISPANO·
EQ·V·S·L·L·M· | Iovi optimo maximo
Lucius Cammi-
us Maxim-
us præfec-
tus cohortis
primæ Hispanorum
equitatæ votum solvit lætus libens
merito. |
|-----|---|---|

To Jupiter, best and greatest, Lucius Cammius Maximus, prefect of the first cohort of Spaniards, furnished with cavalry, joyfully and willingly erects this altar to one worthy of it.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (2) | I·O·M·
- - -
- - -
- - -
MAEN
TRIBV | Iovi optimo maximo
- - -
- - -
- - -
Mænius [Agrippa]
tribunus |
|-----|--|---|

To Jupiter, the best and greatest, - - - Mænius Agrippa, a tribune, dedicates this.

- (3)
- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| I·O·M· | Iovi optimo maximo |
| CAMMI | Cammi- |
| [V]S MAXI | us Maxi- |
| MVS PRÆ | mus præfectus |
| COH·I·HIS· | cohortis primæ Hispanorum |
| EQ·ET·TE·XVIII | equitatae et tribunus |
| COHOE·VOLV· | cohortis duodevicesimæ Voluntariorum |
| V·S·L·M· | votum solvit libens merito. |

To Jupiter, best and greatest, Cammius Maximus, prefect of the first cohort of Spaniards, having a due proportion of cavalry, and tribune of the eighteenth cohort of Volunteers, willingly dedicates this altar, in discharge of a vow to one who is worthy.

- (4)
- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| MARTI MILITARI | Marti militari |
| COH·I·BAETASIO | cohors prima Bætasio- |
| RVM·C·R· | rum civium Romanorum |
| CVI·PRAEEST V[L] | cui præest Ul- |
| PIVS TITIANV[S] | pivs Titianus |
| PRAEF·V·S·L·L·M· | præfectus votum solvit læta libens |
| | merito. |

To Mars, the warlike, the first cohort of Bætasiens, Roman citizens, commanded by Ulpius Titianus, a prefect, erects this altar in discharge of a vow, gladly, willingly, and to one deserving of it.

- (5)
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| I·O·M· | Iovi optimo maximo |
| COH·I·HISP· | cohors prima Hispanorum |
| EQ·CVI·PRAEEST | equitata cui præest |
| L·ANTISTIVS L·F· | Lucius Antistius Lucii filius |
| QUIRINA LVPVS | Quirina (tribu) Lupus |
| VERIANVS PRAE· | Verianus præfectus |
| DOMV·SIC | domu Sic- |
| CA EX AFRICA | ca ex Africa. |

[This altar is dedicated] to Jupiter, the best and greatest, by the first cohort of Spaniards, having a due proportion of cavalry, commanded by Lucius Antistius Verianus, the son of Lucius, of the Tribe Quirina, a prefect, a native of Sicca, in Africa.

- (6)
- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| I·O·M· | Iovi optimo maximo |
| ET NVM· | et numinibus |
| AVG·COH· | Augusti cohors- |
| I·HISPA· | prima Hispanorum |
| POS· | posuit. |

To Jupiter, best and greatest, and the divine influences of the Emperor, the first cohort of Spaniards erects this altar.

(7)

I·O·M·
C· CABAL·
PRISCVS
TRIB·

Iovi optimo maximo
Caius Caballus
Priscus
tribunus.

To Jupiter, the best and greatest, Caius Caballus Priscus, a tribune, [erects this altar.]

(8)

I·O·M·
ET· NVM· AVG·
MAE· AGRIP
PA· TRIBV·
[P]OS·

Iovi optimo maximo
et numinibus Augusti
Mænius Agrip-
pa tribunus
posuit.

To Jupiter, best and greatest, and to the divine influences of the Emperor, Mænius Agrippa has erected this.

(9)

IOVI OP· M·
COH· I
HISPA·
CVI PRÆ·
HELSTRI
VS· NOVEL
LVS PRÆ
PECT

Iovi optimo maximo
cohors prima
Hispanorum
cui præest
Helstri-
us Novel-
lus præ-
fectus.

To Jupiter, the best and greatest, the first cohort of Spaniards, commanded by Helstrius Novellus, prefect, dedicates this.

(10)

I·O·M·
COH· I· DA
LMATAR· CVI
PRÆEST L· CÆ
CILIVS VEGE
TVS· PRÆFEC
V· S· L· M·

Iovi optimo maximo
cohors prima Dal-
matarum cui
præest Lucius Cæ-
cilius Vege-
tus præfectus
votum solvit libens merito.

To Jupiter, best and greatest, the first cohort of Dalmatians, commanded by Lucius Cæcilius Vegetus, prefect, dedicates this altar in discharge of a vow, willingly and to one deserving of it.

(11)

VICTORLÆ· AVG·
COH· I· BÆETA
SIOEVM· C· R·
CVI PRÆEST
T· ATTIVS TVTOR
PRÆFEC
V· S· L· L· M·

Victoriæ augustæ
cohors prima Bæta-
siorum civium Romanorum
cui præest
Titus Attius Tutor
præfectus
votum solvit læta libens merito.

To imperial Victory, the first cohort of Bætasians, Roman citizens, commanded by Titus Attius Tutor, rears this altar in discharge of a vow, gladly, willingly, and to one deserving of it.

- (12)
- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| I' O' M' | Iovi optimo maximo |
| COH' I' BAETA | cohors prima Bæta |
| SIORVM | siorum |
| C' R' CVI PRAE | civium Romanorum cui præ- |
| EST T' ATTIVS | est Titus Attius |
| TUTOR PRAEF | Tutor præfectus |
| V' S' L' L' M' | votum solvit læta libens merito. |

To Jupiter, best and greatest, the first cohort of Bætasians, possessed of the Roman citizenship, and having for their prefect Titus Attius Tutor, erects this altar, gladly, willingly, and to a most deserving object.

(13) No. 13 is an elegantly formed altar, about two feet high, but it is without any inscription.

- (14)
- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| I' O' M' | Iovi optimo maximo |
| COH' I' | cohors prima |
| HISPANO' | Hispanorum |
| CVI PRAE | cui præ- |
| EST C' CAB' | est Caius Caballus |
| PRISCVS | Priscus |
| TRIB' | tribunus. |

To Jupiter, best and greatest, the first cohort of Spaniards commanded by Caius Caballus Priscus, tribune.

- (15)
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| IOVI OP' M' | Iovi optimo maximo, |
| ET NVM' AVG' | et numinibus Augusti |
| M' MAE' AGRIP' | Marcus Mænius Agrippa |
| TRIBVN | tribun- |
| VS | us. |
| POS' | posuit. |

To Jupiter, best and greatest, and the divine influences of the Emperor Marcus Mænius Agrippa, a tribune erected this.

- (16)
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| VICTORIAE AVG' | Victoriae augustæ |
| COH' I' BÆTASIOR' | cohors prima Bætasiorum |
| C' R' | civium Romanorum |
| CVI PRAEEST | cui præest |
| VLEPIVS TITIA | Ulpius Titia- |
| NVS PRAEFEC | nus præfec- |
| TVS | tus |
| V' S' L' L' M' | votum solvit læta libens merito. |

To imperial Victory the first cohort of Bætasians, Roman citizens, commanded by Ulpius Titianus, a prefect, dedicates this altar, in discharge of a vow, gladly, willingly, and to one worthy of it.

(17)

HELSTRI
VS NOVEL
LVS. PRAE
FECTVS
NVMINI
VOLCAN
S (?)

Helstrius
Novellus
Præfectus
Numini
Volcani
Solvit

Helstrius Novellus the prefect [erects this altar in discharge of a vow] to the deity of Vulcan.

If will be quite impossible for me in the compass of a single paper to discuss the peculiar features of all these altars. A few general remarks must suffice. Before proceeding with these I may state that the work of deciphering a Roman inscription is not the haphazard thing which some suppose. In expanding the contractions which frequently occur, the antiquary does not draw upon his imagination, but proceeds upon certain well established precedents and rules. It occurred to me that the discovery, all at once, of sixteen¹ inscriptions which had not been scanned by the eye of man for at least as many centuries, afforded an excellent opportunity of proving to those unacquainted with the subject, the certainty of the fact which I have now mentioned. I accordingly sent copies of the inscriptions as they stand upon the stones to three gentlemen: Professor Henzen in Rome, Dr. Emil Hübner, of the University of Berlin, and Dr. McCaul, Principal of University College Toronto, Canada,—and requested them to give me their views as to the expansion of them. They have all kindly acceded to my invitation, and I may say that their reading of the inscriptions is precisely the same as my own. The only point of divergence is this:—one gentleman reads the L.L. which occurs in the last line of some of the inscriptions *libens libenter*; the rest of us make it *letus libens*; the meaning in both cases is, however, virtually the same. It is true that these inscriptions present no unusual difficulty. Should however the next sixteen altars which Mr. Humphrey Senhouse turns up, present peculiarities ever so great, I pledge myself to submit my own reading to a test similar to the present, whatever the result may be.

I will now indulge in some random remarks upon these altars. The form of them is for the most part tasteful, and the cutting of them good. As they must have been the work of soldiers, not of professional sculptors, we must suppose that even the auxiliaries of the Roman army possessed an unusual amount of artistic taste and skill.

These altars have been erected by different cohorts: eleven are by the first cohort of Spaniards, or its officers; four by the first cohort of

¹ The seventeenth has been found since.

Bætasians, a Belgic tribe; and one by the first cohort of Dalmatians, a people from the shores of the Adriatic. We have a similar variety in the altars previously discovered here, and which are in the portico of Netherhall. We hence learn that it was the policy of Rome to use in foreign parts the martial tendencies of a conquered country. They also avoid massing together in one district large bodies of troops belonging to the same nation. In this way conspiracy was avoided. If England had attentively studied the tactics of Rome all the blood and treasure which was expended in India during the Sepoy rebellion might have been saved. From inscriptions found in Northern Turkey we know that some cohorts of Britons were in Roman times located in that distant province. If I am right in supposing that all the altars before us belong to the reigns of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius, the diversity of troops named on them shows that a quicker exchange took place here at that time than was usual. On some of the stations of the Wall we have evidence to show that the same cohort was in garrison for centuries in succession. The period of these two reigns was one of peculiar activity in Britain. There was the building of the wall of Hadrian, and afterwards that of Antoninus. When the Romans first established themselves in the north of England, the natives would be more restless and give more trouble than afterwards. There would be the greater need; therefore, for concentrating the Roman troops, at times in places threatened with attack; and consequently, more frequent removals.

One thing is manifest from these altars, and that is, that the auxiliary troops of Rome, though all foreigners, were commanded by Roman officers. We have on these altars the names of eight commanders—Lucius Cammius Maximus, Marcus Mænius Agrippa, Ulpius Titianus, Lucius Antistius Lupus Verianus, Caius Caballus Priscus, Helstrius Novellus, Lucius Cæcilius Vegetus and Titus Attius Tutor. These are all Roman names; and Roman names, with the exception of the *prænomen* or first name, were given in accordance with strict rule—the names indicating the *gens*, the tribe, the family, to which the individual belonged. One of the commanders, named Antistius Lupus, tells us that he was born in Africa. This circumstance did not interfere with his citizenship. Paul was a Roman, though he was born in Asia Minor.

These altars disclose to us two peculiarities. For the first time we meet on a British inscription with the title of a tribune of Volunteers. There are several examples of it in foreign inscriptions. Its appearance at the present day is perhaps opportune, as it has a tendency to stimulate and encourage our citizen soldiers. For the first time, too, in Britain, we meet with a dedication to the blacksmith's god, Vulcan.

This, too, is strangely opportune, as Maryport is becoming, I understand, a great iron producing place.

On one important point these altars fail to give us the information we have long desired, that is, what was the Roman name of the camp of Maryport. A document, called the *Notitia*, written in the fifth century, has come down to our time, which gives us the names of the Roman stations, and the garrisons which were in them. By means of this, and the inscriptions which are found in any particular camp, we can often obtain its ancient name. This method fails in the instance before us.

According to the *Notitia*, the first cohort of Spaniards (of which we have so many records in these altars) was in garrison at *Axelodunum*. Now, *Axelodunum* cannot be Maryport, it must from its order of sequence in the *Notitia* be situated on the Wall itself, and east of Bowness. The cohorts of Bætasians and Dalmatians were not in this part of the country at all when the *Notitia* was compiled.

Horsley identifies Maryport with the *Virosidum* of the *Notitia*, where the sixth cohort of the Nervii was in garrison. Unfortunately, not a single inscription has ever been found at Maryport mentioning this body of troops. We must, therefore, wait a little while longer before we can attain to certainty upon this point. Let us hope that next year's ploughing may be as successful as this, and that amongst other things it may supply us with this piece of intelligence.

I began with a quotation from Camden, and I will end with one. That eminent antiquary who, with his friend Sir Robert Cotton, "of an affectionate love to illustrate our native country, made a survey of these coasts, in the year of our redemption, 1599, not without sweet food and contentment of our minds," goes on to say;—"And I cannot chuse but with thankful heart remember that very good and worthy gentleman (I. Sinhaus) not only in this regard that he gave right courteous and friendly entertainment, but also for that being himself well learned, he is a lover of ancient literature, and most diligently preserveth these inscriptions, which by others that are unskilfull and unlettered be straight waies defaced, broken, and converted to other uses, to the exceeding great prejudice and detriment of antiquity." I need not say how peculiarly applicable these words are to the Netherhall family of the present day; and I doubt not that the result of their wise and patriotic example will so influence their children and their children's children that should the present state of mundane affairs continue so long; they will be as applicable three centuries hence as they are now.

J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE.