

### OBSERVATIONS OF DR. BRUCE IN PRESENTING THE SUBSEQUENT PAPER TO THE SOCIETY.

I HAVE to submit to the Society a paper prepared by Mr. C. Roach Smith upon the coins found in Coventina's Fountain at Procolitia. Those who looked upon the enormous mass of coin (for the most part in a highly corroded condition) when it was first brought to Mr. Clayton's residence, at Chesters, were disposed to despair of ever being able to give an intelligent account of it. By persevering diligence and hard work, the task has at last been accomplished. Canon Greenwell, Mr. Blair, of South Shields, and myself did a good deal (Mr. Blair especially) to reduce the heap to order and to arrange the several coins under the heads of the different emperors. Mr. C. Roach Smith, whose skill as a numismatist and extensive archæological knowledge, especially in the Roman field, are well known, then examined the whole, and has embodied his views in a paper which will be printed in the "*Archæologia Æliana*." This paper I now submit to the meeting.

The first part of it contains a tabular view of the coins, showing the number of gold, silver, and first, second, and third brass pieces belonging to each emperor. As this is scarcely adapted for reading aloud, I will here give a brief summary of it.

The number of coins resulting from this "find" in Mr. Clayton's possession is 13,487; of these about two thousand are unrecognisable in consequence of wear and corrosion. In addition to these, at least three thousand came into the hands of other parties. The whole amount of treasure in the well must have been at least fifteen or sixteen thousand.

Four gold coins are amongst the number—one of Nero, one of Sabina, the wife of Hadrian, one of Antoninus Pius, and one of Julia Domna, the wife of Severus.

One hundred and eighty-four denarii (silver coins) have come into Mr. Clayton's possession. The rest are bronze and copper coins. The series begins with three silver coins of the time of Marc Antony, about 30 years before Christ, and it ends with Gratian, who was killed

A.D. 383. The number of emperors and imperial personages represented is not less than 90.

Of the early emperors, Augustus and Tiberius are scantily represented. There are 20 coins of Claudius, and more than 50 of Nero. There are six of Galba and one of Otho. Of the coins of Vespasian and Titus there are 550. Domitian has 485 and Nerva 82. After this the coins become still more numerous. Of Trajan there are 1,772, of Hadrian and his wife Sabina 2,431, of Antoninus Pius and his wife Faustina 2,829, of Marcus Aurelius and his wife Faustina, the younger, there are 1,355. After this the coins decrease in number, Lucius Verus and his wife Lucilla have 170, Commodus and his wife 246. Up to this point the bronze coinage greatly preponderates, the silver coins being very few in number comparatively. About the time of Severus the silver preponderates. Of Septimius Severus and his wife, Julia Domna, there are only 64 pieces, but of these 36 are silver. Caracalla has 10 denarii, but only three of bronze. Of the later emperors, Constantine the Great is most largely represented, there being 200 of his coins. The Constantine family are also largely represented.

Another important section of Mr. C. Roach Smith's paper consists of his remarks upon the rarer reverses found amongst the large mass of coins. He did not meet with any that are absolutely new to numismatists, but with several that are rare, and many that are highly interesting. Amongst the rare coins may be mentioned a first brass of Didius Julianus, a denarius of Didia Clara, a second brass of Julia, the daughter of Titus, a denarius of Clodius Albinus, and a coin of Julia Aquilia. There is also a specimen of the *Disciplina* type of Hadrian, which is rare, and one of the consecration type of Antoninus Pius. In the list the reader will find others which need not be enumerated here.

Amongst the coins of great interest, though not ranking amongst those of great rarity, are specimens of a second brass *Britannia* of Hadrian, of a large brass *Britannia* of Antoninus Pius, and a large brass *Britannia* of Commodus. But the most remarkable fact respecting this class of coins is that in Mr. Clayton's possession there are not less than 327 of the second brass coin struck in the reign of Antoninus Pius to commemorate the complete subjugation of Britain and

the building of the Scottish Wall. It was too bad to inundate the country with coin reminding the poor Britons of their humiliation and defeat. We have also in the "find" specimens of the *Judæa Capta* of Vespasian and Titus, the *Fisci Judaici* type of Nerva, several of the *Adventus* coins of Hadrian such as *Achaia, Africa, Bithynia, Hispania*; and the Christian monogram on the coins of Magnentius. There are many coins of the British Emperors Carausius and Allectus, but none of the rare type.

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#### POSTSCRIPT BY MR. CLAYTON.

THE coins taken out of the well and preserved at The Chesters exceed in weight twenty-seven stones.

A passage in the "History of Northumberland," published by the Rev. John Wallis, A.D. 1769 (Vol. I., p. 23), describes the appearance of the well at that date. It is as follows:—"Many springs and rivers were consecrated by the Romans for their religious rites, etc.; of this kind probably is the well at the station of Carrawbrough. It is between two sloping fields on the west side of the station, just under it, to the south of their famous Wall, about 400 or 500 yards from the 25th milestone on the military road, square, and faced with freestone of hewn work, and has either had a dome over it or been walled round; the stones are lying about it and nearly covered with water from the conduits being stopped, and demolished by the carelessness or ignorance of a ploughman, as I am informed. It is full up to the brim and overflowing in the hottest summer; and, by that man's indiscretion, he that would satisfy his curiosity to see it must run the risk of wetting his feet, especially in winter or in a rainy season."

Hutton, the veteran pedestrian of Birmingham, mentions this well, but by heresy only; it is palpable that he never saw the well or the station of Procolitia, mistaking a meadow field of seven acres surrounding the farmhouse at Carrawburgh for the station of Procolitia, which is nearly half-a-mile distant, and contains an area of three acres and a-half. (Hutton's "Roman Wall," published in 1802, p. 216.)