

ON TWO INSCRIBED STONES FOUND AT JARROW
IN 1782.

THE SLAB FOUND AT JARROW, NO. 538 IN THE "LAPIDARIUM SEPTENTRIONALE," WAS PRESENTED, AS THE SOCIETY IS AWARE, TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES IN LONDON, BY THE LATE CUTHBERT ELLISON, OF HEBBURN.

I EXAMINED this important historical monument twice within recent years, before the removal of that Society's collection of antiquities from Somerset House to Burlington House, and have since examined it again in the latter site, during the past and present years of 1875, 1876. Brand's original plate of this stone and of its inscription still remains the best, and his reading (which was fully adopted by the Rev. John Hodgson) is still valuable, only that it is not quite complete, in consequence of two letters after the word EXERCITVS, and five more constituting a line below, having escaped observation.

I will now give the inscription complete, as it has appeared to my eyes upon the stone, now accessible to antiquaries at Burlington House. Nevertheless, I entirely concur with those who believe that the word DIFFVSIS, which at present stands first, must have been preceded by a word or words forming a lost line above it. And this, because DIFFVSIS PROVINCIIS is a figurative mode of expression, only admissible after some term more simple and direct than DIFFVSIS.

The simplest and most probable introductory words that can perhaps be proposed for consideration are, EXTENSIS AC. These words I will then place at the beginning, within brackets.

[EXTENSIS AC]
DIFFVSIS
PROVINCIIS[IN]
BRITANNIA AD
VTRVMQVE O[STIVM]
EXERCITVS P.P. (perpetuum)
[P]ONI CVRAV (monumentum).

It will be perceived that this inscription is perfect at its conclusion. It is certainly quite unconnected with the other stone numbered 539 in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*. It does not seem to depend upon any other stone that is known to us in respect of its meaning and significancy. The sense, of course, would be:—"The Provinces in Britain being extended and diffused as far as either Estuary, the Army has taken care that an enduring memorial be now placed."

RALPH CARR ELLISON.

April 5, 1876, and July 20, 1876.

THE INSCRIBED STONE FOUND NOT FAR FROM THE OTHER, AND NOW
IN THE CASTLE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, NUMBERED 539 IN THE
"LAPIDARIUM SEPTENTRIONALE."

ALTHOUGH the lower ends of three or four letters of a line at the top, which has been destroyed by fracture of the stone there, remain perceptible, the first legible portion of this inscription is this:—

OMNIVM · FEL
[ICISS]HADR
IANI CES REL · AT ·

And I cannot doubt that it ought to be completed in the erased part with the syllables ICISS, and read—

Omnium fel-
icissimi Hadr-
iani Cesaris.

In point of fact faint traces of the letters ICISS are still present.

This, indeed, is the reading which would first present itself to almost every student of the inscription. I well remember my own incapacity to accept the *omnium filiorum*, of Brand, or to understand why it should have been allowed to remain unquestioned; when, in fact, to defend and maintain it would probably be impossible, in the face of a much more obvious phrase applied to the emperor himself.

Brand, however, offers a valuable conjecture, that the lost line above "must have been Pro salute."

In strong confirmation of this are the syllables REL · AT · at the end of the third visible line, but the proper fourth. The "R" is, indeed, very feebly shown, and might easily be mistaken for "S." Careful examination of the stone, and of the large photographs, will, nevertheless, re-establish the "R" in its proper place; and the natural inference will be that REL · AT · is to be read as for RELEVATA.

PRO SALVTE
OMNIVM FEL-
ICISSIMI HADR-
IANI CESARIS RELEVATA

Then follows—

VATES IN OR · R
YIT

And as the initial figure in this latter sixth line is one which Horsley admits among those of "M" as in use by the Romans, I conceive that in this offering we may probably infer the homage of a Mithraic Priest, although Hadrian is said to have been no friend to the Mithraic worship. In the latter half of the sixth line I seem to read MARINO, but with a confusing interblending of MAR, which renders the syllable difficult to recognize. The final line seems to contain, in faint and uncertain characters (but still well worthy of study), the mention of two cohorts and the usual votive formula:—

VATES IN OR · R
MIT MARINO
COH · Æ COH IV VO SS
?

The whole seems to me to have run thus:—

PRO SALVTE
OMNIVM FEL-
ICISS · HADR-
IANI CES REL · AT (relevata)
VATES IN OR · R (ordine recto)
MIT MARINO (Mithræ marino)
COH · Æ · COH IV VO SS.

?

FF

The two Jarrow stones or slabs are manifestly quite distinct and independent of each other, when we examine them closely and severely. And each inscription is perfect, or nearly so, in itself. The resemblance between them is confined to the size and dimensions of material, which may indicate that they occupied similar places in or against some public edifice. But the execution of the characters upon the two is widely different. That upon the stone in London shows all the care, depth, and precision proper to a public monument of importance; whilst that of the Newcastle stone is careless and unequal.

RALPH CARR ELLISON.

August 2, 1876.