

THE NORTHERN STATIONS OF THE NOTITIA.

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DURING the revision of a map to illustrate my paper on the north-western stations under the government of the honourable Duke of Britain in the period of Arcadius and Honorius, fresh evidences and considerations have occurred to me, and, abandoning the supplement intended for the annual meeting, I propose to treat succinctly the whole of the Notitia relating to the North of England.

I.—As to “the prefect of the Sixth Legion,” its head-quarters were at York, but it was generally useful.

II.—As to “the prefect of the Dalmatian horsemen at Præsidium,” much controversy has arisen as to whether it is the same with Prætorium of the first Iter, as to the locality of the latter, and whether *Præsidio* may not merely mean “in garrison,” at York or elsewhere. All difficulty seems to be removed by placing Præsidium at what is considered to be Ptolemy’s Petuaria, Brugh-upon-Humber, where the great road from Lincoln made its *varia* or passage over the river Abus or Humber, which is near to Ocellum Promontorium. Thus would the next station, Doncaster, be guarded by an outpost on this vast estuary at the south-eastern limit of the country comprised in these northern Notitia, exactly as Carlisle at its north-western limit was guarded by Tunnocelum. It is worthy of note that a fragment reading BREXARC was found at Brugh, and that it appears by Gruter that the “Numer. Dalmat.” had an officer called an Exarchus. (See Horsley, 314, 374, 407.)

III.—As to “the prefect of the Crispian horsemen at Danum,” this on itinerary evidence was Doncaster on one of the tributaries of the Humber, which is considered to be a boundary of the Brigantes and of the possibly subject Parisii.

IV.—As to “the prefect of a body of cuirassiers at Morbium,” by following the bounding stream and what is believed to be a military

way, we come to Templeborough, the recognised Morbium, an allocation which there is no reason to disturb. We have now arrived at the natural barrier against the west, and may grope our way northwards towards the *linea valli* to be specially defended.

V.—As to “the prefect of a detachment of the *Barcarii Trigrienses* at Arbeia,” we, keeping on the east side of the “backbone of England,” first meet with Ilkley on the Wharfe, and I am doubtful whether Arbeia should be considered to be the name of the station or merely as descriptive of its situation, just as we have a great railway station called Trent. On a well-known altar found here, dedicated by a prefect of the second cohort of the *Lingones*, the Wharfe is treated as Verbeia. Four or five roads met at Ilkley. It has been supposed to be the *Olicana* of Ptolemy and the *Olenacum* of the *Notitia*, but, whatever may become of *Olicana*, Ilkley cannot well be *Olenacum*. The course to *Lavatræ* shall still be followed.

VI.—As to “the prefect of a detachment of the *Dictensian Nervii* at Dictis,” the next fort, that at Brugh, near Bainbridge, and about a mile from Askrigg in Wensleydale, produced an inscription commemorating its construction with stone by the sixth cohort of the *Nervians*. A road is marked by Hughes as proceeding northwards from it towards the western Watling Street, leading from Greta Bridge to Bowes (*Lavatræ*), and striking it midway between the two places.

VII.—As to “the prefect of a detachment of watchers (*vigiles*) at *Concangium*,” we feel that, on arriving at this road which we have now to follow westwards until we shall be on the verge of the *linea valli*, we have arrived at a perilous frontier region, for our three next prefects are, at well known itinerary stations, those of a detachment of *exploratores* at *Lavatræ* (Bowes), a detachment of *directores* at *Verteræ* (Brugh), and a detachment of *defensores* at *Braboniacum* (at or near Kirby Thore), where we are stopped by the regular defenders of the *linea valli*. We can hardly refuse to recognize the primary claims of Greta Bridge to be *Concangium*, the easternmost of the stations occupied by the four parties of scouts, and since they were anonymous we cannot be sanguine as to any extraneous help from inscriptions. The proximity of the stations at Bowes and Greta Bridge is accounted for by the dangerous nature of the duties required from the garrisons of these *Castra Exploratorum*, etc.

VIII., IX., X.—Lavatræ and Verteræ are so well ascertained that nothing more need be said about them. They occur in their proper order in the Notitia. As to Braboniacum and the itinerary Galava, both being at or near Kirby Thore, I observe that Hughes in his map gives two fortresses there, and as Braboniacum is excluded from the *linea valli*, while Iter X. is included in it, we may fairly infer that Braboniacum was the easternmost of the two.

XI.—The locality of “the prefect of the detachment of Solenses of Maglova” is a more perplexing subject. There being no good reason to disturb the identification of the succeeding stations Magæ, Longovicum, and Derventio with Piersebridge, Lanchester, and Ebchester, the writer now commencing a fresh series of forts leading in another way to the *linea valli*, which immediately follows, Maglova, not the residence of promiscuous outside defenders, but of named soldiers, is more likely to be near Piersebridge than to be near Kirby Thore. Besides, there is no available site for it near Kirby Thore, and it can hardly have been an isolated place in the carefully drawn Notitia. It is remarkable that there is no known defence at Teesmouth, but Piersebridge, though a large station, could scarcely have had the importance of a Luguvallium, a Petrianæ, or a Mancunium, and the nature of the Tees would not render its protection a necessity. It is difficult to bring in any of the Cleveland or other inland Yorkshire settlements, and the only feasible idea seems to be that Maglova represents one of the camps in the triangle between Greta Bridge and Piersebridge bounded by the Tees on the north and the two arms of Watling Street on two other sides.

XII., XIII., XIV.—Magæ, of a detachment of the *Pacenses* (Piersebridge), Longovicum, of a detachment of the *Longovicarii* (Lanchester, anciently *Langchester*), and *Derventio*, of the *Derventian* detachment (Ebchester, on the Derwent), require no comment, and the *linea valli* is soon reached. Horsley’s translation of *Derventio* by “a station on the river Derwent” is neat, and reminds one of Danum, Arbeia, and Trent, removing any remaining difficulty as to *Vindomora* and *Derventio* being practically the same.

With the next passage, “*Item per lineam valli*,” I abandon my numerals, and, having attempted to convey my impression that there is much method and no madness in the Notitia, will, referring to the ordinary books and my former paper, attempt to end at *Virosidum*,

without venturing upon the assumption or suggestion that the famous title *per lineam valli* ends at some point not disclosed by our present copies of the record.

From the easternmost station, formerly supposed to be clearly identified, the stations proceeding from east to west seem with one exception to be satisfactorily allocated in the same exact order which, to my mind, characterizes the outside stations already dealt with. The exception is Segedunum. One cannot well call Wallsend a *dunum*, and the inscriptional evidence as to the Lingones occurred at Tinnmouth, opposite to Shields Law, which would satisfy the term. At the eastern, as well as at the western, termination of mural stonework, a succession of earthen barriers occurs, but if, on the west, the stations to which they led were included in the *linea*, there is no reason why that at the mouth of the Tyne should not be so also.

From AMBOGLANNA the courses of the Notitia and the Rudge Cup may be considered as coinciding, up to PETRIANÆ (Old Carlisle). There the Cup goes to Axelodunum (*Ellenborough*), the Notitia proceeding to ABALLABA (Papcastle), meeting the Cup arrived from Axelodunum and on its way to Maia (Hardknot Hill). The Notitia continue to CONGAVATA on the sea (Moresby), garrisoned by the second cohort of the Lingones removed from Ilkley (Arbeia), and, turning along the coast, arrive at AXELODUNUM, whence the Cup had departed, and passing GABROSENTUM (Skinburness) on the *Waver*, complete the north-western defence at TUNNOCELUM (Bowness), the ocellum of the *Ituna* or Eden, the safeguard of Carlisle.

Having accomplished this enumeration, the Notitia proceed to the eastern defences in the Cumbrian parts of the districts so strongly guarded from sea to sea. They commence, like Iter X., which is followed, with GLANNIBANTA (Whitley Castle), Iter X. only viewing the road as a precious mineral one, and the Notitia having no object in mentioning Magna. Taking, for the like reason, and because it was just out of the line, no notice of Braboniacum, they note ALIONE of Iter X., and next note BREMETENRACUM, which was identified with Ribchester by Mr. Hinde through its Cuneus Sarmaturarum. Here I ended my paper, because I thought that the doubtfully-placed stations of the Cup and the Notitia had been identified from my own standpoint, and because it did not occur to me to impeach the ideas that the

concluding stations of the Notitia, Olenacum and Virosidum, were Ilkley and Adel. I now see that the method of the Notitia should have been better observed up to its ending, and that the writer's Roman-road onward course should have been detected, removing some grave difficulties.

Admitting that there is a Roman road from Ribchester to Ilkley and one from Ilkley through Adel to Tadcaster, it is in the last degree unlikely that the south-western boundary of the Brigantian territory, elsewhere so carefully protected, with that great centre of roads, Manchester (Mancunium), should be left at the mercy of the Scots. A sudden divergence from Iter X. to Ilkley and Adel along the Roman road was worse than at right angles, and what possible object could be gained by ending an elaborate system of defence, illustrated by the Notitia, at an insignificant place in, possibly, a hostile inland country?

These difficulties and the method of the Notitia have now induced me to follow Iter X. in its geographical and defensive course, rather than in its itinerary route to Mancunium, which, like the defended Lugu-vallium, is not mentioned in the Notitia, and we are led to a post on the Mersey in defence of Mancunium, and at the extreme boundary of the province of the Brigantes. The name of the post may possibly bear a trace of the word Virosidum. I am referring to Warrington, already presumed to be the Veratinum (somewhat near to Deva, Chester) of the Chorographia, a form of name not nearly so much removed from that of Virosidum as in similar cases. For the obvious right of Warrington, popularly pronounced Warratin, with its concurrence of Roman roads, its passage over the bounding river, and its obvious use to Manchester, to be a Roman station, I need only refer to Whitaker. He has, as I fear, been rather neglected as being fanciful, but to my mind there is much sterling stuff, interrupted it may be with fantasies, in Whitaker's "Manchester." He calls attention to the records of Doomsday, wherein Warrington is written Wallintun, and gives a couple of instances wherein R passes into L. I am a little doubtful as to his reasoning, and should be slow to admit that, on the same principle, L may not pass into R. However this may be, there is every cause for concluding that Wallintun, hodie Warrington, ought to be Virosidum, the end of the *linea valli*, completing a skilful military system directed against circumstances

whereof we wot not. The spellings by foreigners in Domesday Book cannot be depended upon.

I have anticipated Olenacum, which may or may not be Ptolemy's Olicana. It should be between Bremetenracum and Virosidum, and, when I disagree with Whitaker as to identifying Blackrode, between Ribchester and Warrington, with Coccium, I cannot ignore its claims to be Olenacum. Without local knowledge, I offer no opinion. The country between Ribchester and Warrington should be carefully surveyed.

I wound up the paper intended to be read with some general observations as to the authorship and intention of the singular series of fortifications indicated in the Notitia; but the questions as to the state of the inland countries which were the care of the scouts and the cause of the vallum, as to the respective works of Theodosius and Stilicho, as to those of Hadrian and Severus, and, it may be added, as to those of others, are too mysterious for hasty study. I have endeavoured to show that the province of the Duke of Britain was bounded by the Tyne and Solway on the north, and by the Humber and Mersey on the south. This district has hitherto been recognised as that of the Brigantes and Parisii, and as Maxima Cæsariensis, Valentia being supposed to be upon the north of it. I merely follow Horsley in having misgivings as to the latter allocations. The nature of the enemies having the attention of the explorers, and the absence of stations along the east parts of Yorkshire and Durham, and in Britain generally, are subjects which should receive separate treatment. After every honest attempt to unfold a mystery, I think that the works between the Tyne and Eden are virgin soil for future antiquaries. I much fear that I may not have had local opinions before me; and, if I have trespassed upon the preserves of former writers, I beg pardon. At the risk, however, of finding that I may have stumbled upon a mare's nest, I think that it is right to print a reply to a question which I put. "The station which Warrington claims was not there but at Wilderspool in Cheshire, two miles away, and this station all our local antiquaries believe was Condate, which place is at the proper itinerary distance from Mediolanum-Middlewick, the next station south of the 10th Iter of Antonine."