

## X.—NEWLY DISCOVERED ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS.

### 1.—ON AN ALTAR TO *FORTUNA CONSERVATRIX*, FROM CILURNUM, BY JOHN CLAYTON, F.S.A., V.P.

[Read on the 29th October, 1884.]

THE Roman buildings recently discovered between the eastern rampart of the station of Cilurnum and the river North Tyne have been already partially excavated, and the further excavation is in progress; but the buildings are found to be more extensive and more important than was expected, and it is probable that the excavation may not be completed till the spring of next year, when a full description of the structures by an abler hand than mine, with an accurate plan of the whole, will be laid before the Society. In the meantime, detached objects will necessarily be met with, which ought at once to be brought before the Society. One of such objects, being an altar inscribed to the goddess Fortune, of which a woodcut from a drawing from the pencil of Mr. Blair, our colleague, and one of our secretaries, is here annexed. The figure of the goddess is sculptured on the face of the altar. In one hand she holds a cornucopia, in the other a wheel—both of them appendages of the goddess, and generally found upon her statues. The following is an expanded reading of the inscription:—

D[E]AE  
FORT[VNAE] Co-  
NSERVATR-  
ICI · VENEN-  
S GERM[ANVS]  
L[IBENTER] M[ERITO].



The ravages of time, on the features and dress of the goddess, are apparent, but every letter is legible. The use of tied letters in this inscription indicates that its date was not earlier than the reign of



Antoninus Pius, when the use of ligatures, or tied letters, was first introduced. Roman altars to Fortune are very frequently found, but the application to her of the epithet *Conservatrix* is almost unique. Only two more examples are in existence in Britain, one\* was found in the year 1740 (and remains) at Netherby, in Cumberland, the seat of Sir Frederick Ulric Graham, Bart., and we will now endeavour to trace the history of the third. In Orellius a similar altar is described as having been found at Bath; but in the seventh volume of the *Corpus Inscript. Latin.*, No. 211, we are informed that the mention by Orellius, of Bath as the place where this altar was found, is a mistake, and that, in fact, it was found at or near Manchester, and was either lost or concealed. Mr. W.

Thompson Watkin of Liverpool, in going systematically through (on the 30th of May, 1884) the collection of Roman inscriptions and sculptures preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, came upon

\* See Woodcut above.

this identical altar. It seems that in 1875 it was presented to the museum by the Rev. J. W. Burgon, M.A., now Dean of Chichester, and from him we learn that it was purchased early in this century at a sale, by his father, a distinguished official in the British Museum, who gave it to a relation of the name of Johnson resident at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, at whose death it came to his nephew, the Rev. J. W. Burgon. Horsley, in his *Britannia Romana*,\* describes this Altar, and gives us the inscription as follows :—

FORTVNAE  
CONSERVA- (v and A ligulate)  
TRICI  
L. SENECIA-  
NIVS† MAR-  
TIVS ∫ LEG  
VI VICT.

Though he refers us to Camden's *Britannia* as his authority, we can find there no mention of the altar; but we find it described in one of Bishop Gibson's interpolations in his translation of Camden,‡ in which he speaks of it in the following terms :—"Another inscription was dug up at the same place,§ by the River Medlock, in the year 1616. The stone is three quarters long, fifteen inches broad, and eleven thick, and is preserved entire in the garden at Hulme, the seat of the Blands, lords of the town of Manchester, by marriage with the heiress of the Moseleys. It seems to be an altar dedicated to Fortune by L. Senecianus† Martius, the third governor or commander of the Sixth Legion." The dedicator of the Cilurnum altar, like the dedicators of the two altars found last year at Borcovicus, is a German serving in the Roman army ; but the particular branch of the service to which he belonged is not stated, as is done in the case of the dedicators of the two altars at Borcovicus.

\* P. 301 and plate N: 61 (*Lancashire I*).

† By the courtesy of Mr. Arthur J. Evans, the curator of the Ashmolean Museum, we are able to state that Horsley's reading of the name of the dedicator of the altar—SENECIANIVS—is correct, and that Bishop Gibson is wrong.

‡ Page 966.

§ Alparc or Aldport.

2.—ON A ROMAN ALTAR FROM BYKER, BY J. COLLINGWOOD  
BRUCE, LL.D., D.C.L., V.P.

[Read on the 26th November, 1884.]

IN making the cutting for a road at the east end of Byker Bridge, a Roman altar was found about three weeks ago. As the inscription on it is nearly effaced, its value consists simply in its indicating the course of the Wall in its passage to the station of *Pons Ælii*.

The altar is a small one, but it is well formed. It is 1 foot 10 inches high and 11 inches broad. It has the usual capital and projecting base. The capital is ornamented by two lines of the cable pattern moulding. On its top is the focus, as usual, on which the offering was burnt, and on each side of it are indications of the volutes which are supposed to symbolize the faggots used in burning the sacrifice. At some late period a hole has been bored through the upper angle of the stone at its right hand side.

Unfortunately, owing to the altar having been made use of as a sharpening stone, the greater part of the inscription, which it once no

doubt bore, has been worn off. Usually inscriptions on Roman altars begin with the name of the gods to whom they are dedicated, put in the dative case. Here the inscription begins with the name of a man, probably the dedicator, in the nominative case. The inscription has consisted of seven lines. The first and second lines are complete, they are:—



IVL·MAX  
IMVS·SAC  
D·I . . .  
Q . . . .  
PE . . . .  
CV . . . .

Of the other lines we have only the initial letter or letters; they seem to be (3rd line) D.I, (4th) O or Q, (5th) P E. Any attempt to draw any meaning out of this inscription beyond the name of the

dedicator, if such it be, can only be guess work. Yet I will venture upon an expansion of the third line, in the full expectation that it will be objected to by more able epigraphists than myself. I would venture to read:—IVLius MAXIMVS SACerdos Dei Invicti Mithræ. “Julius Maximus, priest of the unconquered god Mithras.” Mithras, the Persian sun god, was extensively worshipped along the line of the Roman Wall. As the sun is the chief agent in the hands of the living God in promoting light and warmth and growth, it was natural that those who could not or would not rise up to the conception and worship of the first Great Cause, should be satisfied with the adoration of this work of His hands.

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3.—ON CENTURIAL STONES NEAR GILSLAND, BY DR. BRUCE.

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[Read on the 28th January, 1885.]

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THE Rev. A. Wright, Vicar of Over-Denton, has recently called my attention to three unrecorded centurial stones found in the neighbourhood of Gilsland. Two of these I have examined along with him; the third has been discovered since I was last in the west.

In the garden wall at Willowford farm house, close to the front door, is a stone which bears the inscription—

COCCEI  
REGVLI

“The Century of Cocceius Regulus.”

A stone, which is now in the possession of Mr. John Armstrong, of the Crooks, and was found by him in a field-wall between Gap and Chapel House a few years ago, bears the following inscription:—

COH VI  
CALEDO  
NII SECVND



Some of the letters are very obscure. The last two letters of the second line and the last three of the third are in ligature. After considerable trouble, Mr. Wright and I came to the conclusion that the reading of it was probably as follows:—*Cohortis sextae, centuria Caledonii Secundi*. “The century of Caledonius Secundus (or Secundinus) of the sixth Cohort.”

The third stone\* was found at Newhall, which is to the north-west of Wallend. The inscription seems to read :—

COH II

O LAETIN

“The century of Laetinus (or Laetianus) of the second Cohort.” The only letter about which there seems to be any doubt is the last letter of the last line, it may be an N, or we may have IA.

The stone has seemingly been cut down for building purposes since being taken out of the Roman Wall.

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4.—ON TWO UNPUBLISHED ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS, BY DR. BRUCE;  
IN A LETTER TO ROBERT BLAIR, SECRETARY.

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[Read on the 29th April, 1885.]

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I HAVE had an opportunity of examining the centurial stone which you informed me had been discovered at Hexham lately, and is now in the possession of Mr. Gibson. It seems that it was taken out of the wall of a house which had been built in the seventeenth century—say about 1640.

The stone bears all the characteristics of a Roman walling stone. It is sixteen inches long, tapering, as is usual, from its outer to its inner extremity. Its face is 1 foot in width, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, and is, as almost universally is the case, cut across the lines of stratification. The inscription is as you represented it to be, thus :—



CHV IIII > MA

RCI C > MA

The only point on which there can be any doubt is, as you are aware, the last two letters of the second line. You were disposed to regard them as two M's in ligature. I saw the inscription in a particularly good light, and I thought I saw in the last character a horizontal stroke, giving it the appearance of MA in ligature. I may mention that the letters have been formed by a series of puncturings, a mode which we have frequently noticed.

\* This and the stone from Willowford farm-house are now in the possession of Mr. George Howard, M.P., at Naworth Castle.

Now, as to the reading of the inscription. If I am right as to the last character being MA, it probably is :—

Cohortis nonæ, centuria Ma  
rci Comati

If the last letter be an M, the reading may be :—

Cohortis nonæ, centuria Ma  
rci Communis.

Both of these names, Dr. Hübner (from whom I have heard since he got your squeeze of the stone) suggests as likely ones, though neither of them have previously occurred in British inscriptions.

This stone forms another link in the chain of reasoning which would rank Hexham among the posts occupied by the Romans.

The woodcut on the preceding page, from a photograph which Mr. Gibson has prepared with his usual skill, gives a perfect representation of this interesting relic.

Several days ago there was sent to me, by direction of the Marquis of Lothian, a plaster of Paris cast of a Roman inscription found upon a stone that is built into the north turret stair of Jedburgh Abbey. I was asked to give his lordship my views respecting it. As the stone

I O M VEXI-  
LLATIO RETO-  
RVM GAESA .  
Q C A IVL .  
SEVE R TRIB

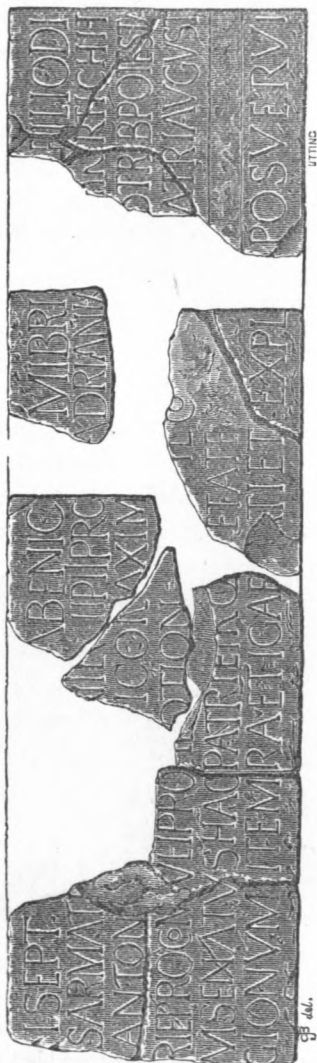


has to a large extent escaped the notice of writers upon Scottish archæology,\* and as the troops and their tribune, who inscribed it, seem to have hailed from HABITANCUM, the modern Risingham, a station on the Watling Street, on our side of the Border, it may be agreeable to this society to have a brief account of it.

\* It is described in Jeffrey's *History of Roxburghshire*, and a figure of it given, but the inscription is not fully represented.



Most of the letters of the inscription are distinct; one or two are partially obliterated, and one or two have been purposely effaced. Notwithstanding this circumstance I have no doubt that it is to be



read as already given. The expansion of it will necessarily be *Jovi optimo maximo vexillatio Retorum Gaesatorum quorum curam agit Julius Severinus tribunus*. "To Jupiter the best and greatest, the vexillation of Raetian spearmen under the command of Julius Severinus (dedicates this)."

The word *Retorum* is manifestly a rustic spelling of the word *Raetorum*. We have only once before, in our British antiquities, met with the word *Gaesati*. It occurs on the fine large slab in our own museum, which came from Risingham, and is here shown. It is No. 628 in our *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, and No. 1,002 in the seventh volume of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (vol. vii). The last line of the inscription reads *Cohors prima Vangionum, item Raeti gaesati et exploratores . . . posuerunt*.

The term *gaesati* has been derived from the word *gaesum* or *gaesa*, signifying a spear or javelin. The weapon in question was one which, at first, was only used by barbaric tribes; but it was eventually adopted by some of the Roman forces. These Raetians were evidently armed with it.

Two altars found at Risingham, but now lost, have probably been dedicated by the Raeti. The reading on them is VEXII G · R, which Professor Hübner expands thus:—*Vexillarii Germani Raeti*. See *Lapid.*, Nos. 391, and 392, and *C.I.L.*, Nos. 987, 988.



There is another stone in our museum, also from Risingham, which sheds light upon the Jedburgh inscription. It is an altar to Fortune, being No. 602 of the *Lapidarium Septentrionale* and No. 984 of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (vol. vii). The inscription reads:—



FORTVNAE · REDVCI  
IVLIVS SEVERINVS  
TRIB · EXPLICITO  
BALINEO · VSLM

“To Fortune, that brings back in safety, Julius Severinus, the tribune, on the completion of the bath, erects this altar in discharge of a vow, willingly and to a most deserving object.” There can be little doubt that the IVLIVS SEVERINVS of this altar is the IVL SEVER of the

Jedburgh inscription. Hence we may conclude that the body of Raetians whom we find at Risingham is the same force which have left their mark on the stone in Jedburgh Abbey. Risingham is quite in the north of Northumberland, and, as we have stated, is situated on the Watling Street; Jedburgh is but a short way within the Scottish border, and is within two miles of the Watling Street. The one place would be but an easy march from the other.

Professor Hübner, I may mention, agrees with me in the reading which I have given of the inscription.

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NOTE.—A Vexillation of Raeti and Norici is mentioned on an altar found at Manchester, which is represented in the woodcut (kindly lent by Mr. W. T. Watkin):—



5.—ON A ROMAN INSCRIBED TOMBSTONE FOUND IN CARLISLE, &C.,  
BY R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A., IN A LETTER TO DR. BRUCE, V.P.

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[Read on the 25th March, 1885.]

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Lowther Street, Carlisle, 24th March, 1885.

MY DEAR DR. BRUCE,—For some time past excavations for building purposes have been in progress in Carlisle on a site known as the Spring Garden Bowling Green, and situate on the east side of Lowther Street, at its northern end. It therefore lies immediately outside of the north-east angle of the Roman and mediæval city. With the exception of a small public house and some sheds this site has never been built upon. It was a garden and bowling green in 1745, when its hedges were cut down for fear they might give shelter to the Highlanders.

I have watched the excavations with interest. Over most of the area there was a thin stratum of garden soil, while the earth below had never been disturbed. Close to Lowther Street a trench, filled up with mud and miscellaneous matter, marked the city ditch, which was open in the memory of many now living. On the north side of the garden was found a deep pocket of made soil, in which was the slab I am about to describe. Many animal bones, including, it is said, the skeleton of a donkey, were found here; and also two skulls, which I did not see, but which are said to be human. The slab was in this pocket; it was in an inclining position, face upwards, at an angle of about 45° with the horizon. Most unfortunately, before its nature was suspected, a cart passed over it and broke off the top of the stone, which was at once knocked into fragments, and either built into foundations or pitched away—at any rate, it cannot be found.

The extreme height of the slab is now 4 feet 8 inches, and breadth 3 feet 2 inches. It is of considerable thickness and weight, and is of the local soft red sandstone. A deep alcove is cut in the upper part, in which is a figure—now headless, the head and the top of the alcove having been destroyed by the cart. The height of the figure is 2 feet 2 inches. It represents a child in upper and under tunic. The under tunic reaches to the little feet, which peep out beneath it, and its tight sleeves come down to the wrists; the upper tunic comes to the knees, and has large sleeves reaching to the elbows. A girdle is round the

waist, and a large scarf or comforter has been wrapped round the child's throat and chest to protect it from the cold. The child probably

died of bronchitis. The costume, if in woollen material, would be at once warm, sensible, and convenient. The left hand is raised to the breast, the right, extended downwards, holds a fir-cone.

Below the figure a panel is cut in the stone, 2 feet 2 inches broad by 1 foot high, and having on each side the well-known dovetail projections.

DIS

VACIAINF  
ANSANIII

The letters are unusually distinct, though before the stone was washed I had some doubt as to the final III, as a flaw in the stone made it look like UI (not VI); but after the stone was washed

and placed in the Museum, under strong light, both sun and gas, the III came out clear.

I venture to read this—

VACIA INFANS AN[NORUM] III.

“Vacia, an infant of three years;”



and Professor Clark and Mr. Watkin agree ; as I also gather from your card, does Professor Hübner.

“Vacia” occurs on a slab found at Great Chesters (*Lap. Sep.*, 282), which is expanded as—

D[IIS] M[ANIBUS]  
ÆL[IO] MERCU-  
RIALI CORNICUL[ARIO]  
VACIA SOROR  
FECIT.



You will be glad to hear that the Roman bagpiper has at last made his appearance in the Museum. I had him brought from Stanwix in

October last; but, owing to his weight—over half a ton—we dare not take him up the stairs and over the floor. However, a few days ago, we opened a back entry, and the Corporation workmen hauled the piper up with tackle to a safe place, with a cross wall under him. He is much disfigured with tar from the water butt, which he latterly supported.—I remain, yours truly,

RICH. S. FERGUSON.

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6.—ON THE DISCOVERY OF FIVE ROMAN MILESTONES.

BY DR. BRUCE, VICE-PRESIDENT.

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[Read on the 29th July, 1885.]

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AT one of our recent meetings I ventured to remark that our Society was more fortunate than most of those in the South of England, for whereas they were very rarely able to boast of a new inscription of the Roman era, we had a fresh one to discuss nearly every month. In quick succession we have had laid before us, in papers by Mr. Clayton, Mr. R. S. Ferguson, and myself:—An account of two milestones found at Cawfields; two very important altars, found at Housesteads, dedicated to Mars Thingsus and two German divinities by Germans serving in the Roman army in a Dutch Cohort; an altar found at Chesters, dedicated to Fortuna Conservatrix; a funereal stone found at South Shields, and another discovered at Carlisle. To-night I have the happiness to describe, under the auspices of our senior Vice-President, on whose estate they have been found, no less than five milestones, all of them having inscriptions. It may be well first of all to describe the place in which they were found. The farm of Crindle Dykes lies to the south of the Housesteads farm, and of the public road extending from Newcastle to Carlisle called the Military Road in consequence of its having been formed for military purposes after the rebellion of 1745. Passing over the crown of the hill, which is here a striking object in the landscape, it extends down its southern slope towards the river South Tyne. But there is another and a more ancient road which traverses the Crindle Dykes farm from east to west, and which has been used from time immemorial as a township highway. It was known in the Middle Ages as the Stanegate, or the Stone Road, being so called in contradistinction to the unpaved roads which

usually prevailed in earlier times. This road is in reality a Roman one. As such it is laid down in the *Survey of the Roman Wall* by Mr. MacLauchlan—a survey most accurately executed, and for which we are indebted to the sound judgment and generous spirit of Algernon, the fourth Duke of Northumberland. In this survey the road is laid down as proceeding from Walwick Grange, a hamlet adjacent to the station of CILURNUM, passing Fourstones, Newbrough, and Chesterholm (the Roman VINDOLANA), and coming to Carvoran (the Roman MAGNA). Here it meets the Maiden Way, the great Roman road on which the traffic between the south and the north was carried on, and then proceeds westward to Birdoswald (the Roman AMBOGLANNA). Mr. MacLauchlan professes only to trace the Stanegate from Walwick Grange to Birdoswald, but he indicates the possibility of its extension to CILURNUM. In order to test this matter, a cutting was made by Mr. Clayton two or three years ago, on the presumed line of its course between the southern gateway of CILURNUM and Walwick Grange, when a nearly perfect Roman road was discovered about two feet beneath the surface. It was twenty-seven feet in width, and had kerb-stones on each side of it. It may also be stated that traces of this road have been found westward of Birdoswald, and are laid down on Mr. MacLauchlan's survey, thus leading to the opinion that it extended from Birdoswald in the direction of Carlisle.

The five milestones that I am now to describe, have been found on the north side of the Stanegate, on the Crindle Dykes farm. The stones were all found in near contiguity with each other. In the course of the excavations which were made, the original Roman road was exposed at about two feet below the existing highway, with its accustomed kerb-stones. These milliaries were found exactly one Roman mile to the east of one which is still standing on the Stanegate, in the immediate vicinity of VINDOLANA, on the spot where, doubtless, Roman hands placed it, sixteen or seventeen centuries ago. In consequence of its long exposure to the elements, the inscription which it once bore is now nearly obliterated; some strokes which may be portions of letters can be discerned, but nothing can be made of them. Horsley seems to have read the inscription. He says, "The military way that passes directly from Walwick Chesters to Carvoran is here [Chesterholm] very visible, and close by the side of it stands a piece of a large rude pillar with a remarkable inscription upon it in



large letters, but very coarse, BONO REIPUBLICAE NATO. No doubt this was a compliment to the reigning emperor."\* A generation or so ago another stone was standing a Roman mile to the west of this one, but it was split in two by the occupant of the farm and the severed parts made use of as gate-posts. The fragments of this stone at present lie by the side of the road.

Now it was at the distance of a Roman mile from the milestone which is still standing, that the five milestones I am now to describe were found. The circumstance of this part of the farm having been subjected to the modern process of tile draining, was the cause of their being brought to light. The stones have all been carefully photographed by our skilled associate, Mr. Gibson, and copies of his work are, by Mr. Clayton's desire, laid upon our table. From the photographs it will be observed that the stones are very rudely dressed, and that the task of deciphering the inscriptions is not an easy one. I

shall not be at all surprised if some of my present readings should eventually be found to need revision.

The earliest of the stones belongs to the time of Severus Alexander. It is a nicely rounded pillar, four feet six inches high, and \*seven inches in diameter. The inscription on it seems to be this:—



IMP CA[ES]  
SEVER [ALEX]  
PIO [FEL. AVG. P. M.]  
COS PP CVR  
L[E]G AVG. [PR. PR.]  
MP XIII

Imperatorī Caesarī  
Severo [Alexandro]  
Pio [felici Augusto pontifici maximo]  
consuli, patri patriae, curante  
legato Augusti propraetore  
millia passuum quatuordecim.

"To the Emperor, Caesar, Severus [Alexander, happy, august, chief

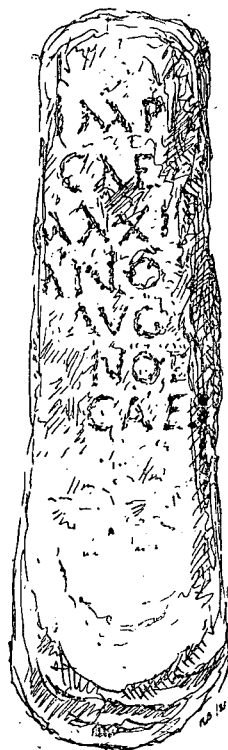
\* *Britannia Romana*, p. 223.

priest] Pius, consul, father of his country, (this stone was erected) by order of — Imperial legate (and proprætor). Fourteen miles." I may remark that the A and the V at the end of the 5th line are ligulate, and have the appearance of two Xs. The Severus to whom this stone is dedicated, is probably Severus Alexander; the character of the lettering upon it being precisely similar to that on another milestone found at Cawfields, which was brought under the notice of this Society a short time ago,\* and which undoubtedly belongs to this emperor. An important inscription found at Chesters, and bearing the name of Elagabalus† as Augustus, and of Severus Alexander as Caesar, bears the date of A.D. 221. In this inscription Marius Valerianus is represented as being the Imperial Legate at the time.

The next stone seems to bear the name of Maximinus, but which of the Emperors of that name it is difficult to say, though, judging from the coarseness both of the stone and of the lettering, it is probably of the later Emperor, Maximinus Daza, who reigned from A.D. 305 to A.D. 314. The stone is precisely similar in character to another milliary of Maximinus, which was discovered at Corbridge, and is now in the Museum of the Duke of Northumberland, at Alnwick Castle. See *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, No. 643. The newly discovered pillar is five feet two inches high, and has a diameter at top of one foot two inches, and at bottom of one foot eight inches. The inscription is:—

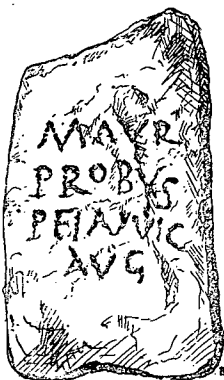
IMP	Imperator
CAE	Caesari
MAXI	Maxi
MINO	Mino
AVG	Augusto
NOB	Nobilissimo
CAES	Caesari.

"To the Emperor Caesar Maximinus Augustus (and) the most noble Caesar."



\* *Archæologia Aeliana*, IX. 211. † *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, No. 121.

The stone which comes next in chronological order has not the usual form of a milestone, but is a flat slab measuring two feet four inches in length, by one foot four inches in breadth; the lower end bears marks of recent fracture. Its inscription presents no difficulties; it is—



M AVR	Marcus Aurelius
PROBVS	Probus
P F INVIC	Pius, felix, invictus
AVG	Augustus.

“Marcus Aurelius Probus Pius, happy, unconquered, Augustus.” Probus reigned from A.D. 276 to 282. He was a most successful warrior and a wise governor. “History,” says the late Professor Ramsay, in *Smith’s Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography*, “has unhesitatingly pronounced that the character of Probus stands without a rival in the annals of imperial Rome, combining all the best features of the best princes who adorned the purple.” He was murdered by his soldiers in consequence of his employing them in laborious works of

public utility. It is interesting to find in our immediate neighbourhood so distinct a notice of so remarkable a man. No other stone found in Britain bears his name.

IMP  
FL (?)  
VAL  
CONSTANTIN  
P. F  
INV  
AVG  
DIVI

Imperator  
Flavio  
Valerio  
Constantino  
pio felici  
invicto  
Augusto  
Divi  
[Augusti filio]



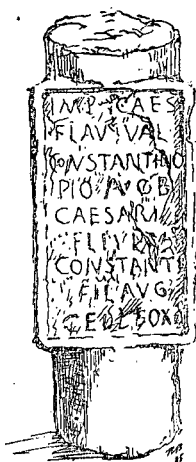
We now come to the period of the Constantines. On a rounded column of very coarse millstone grit, three feet seven inches high and eleven inches in diameter, is the annexed inscription :—“To the Emperor Flavius Valerius Constantinus Pius; happy, unconquered, Augustus, the son of the deified (Augustus Constantius).” This inscription strongly resembles one which was discovered some years ago on the side of the road leading into the Roman station of Ancaster in the county of Lincoln, which is figured in Mr. C. Roach Smith’s

*Collectanea Antiqua*, Vol. V. p. 149, and which forms No. 1170 in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, Vol. VII. The second line of the

inscription has here been to some extent conjecturally restored; a flaw in the stone partially interfering with it. The pillar was found in two pieces, but the parts fit accurately together.

The fifth stone is dedicated to Constantine the Great and to his son Flavius Julius Constans. The stone is peculiar in its form; for the most part it is cylindrical, but the portion on which the inscription is carved forms a flat moulded tablet.

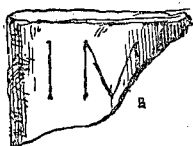
\*The height of it is three feet two inches, and the width about one foot two inches. The following is the inscription:—"To the Emperor Flavius Valerius Constantinus Pius Augustus, and to the Caesar Flavius Julius Constans the son of the Augustus . . . ." The latter part of the fourth line of the inscription is somewhat bleared; some read NOB, instead of the reading I have given. The last line is so obscure as to have as yet resisted all attempts to unravel it.



IMP CAES  
FLAV VAL  
CONSTANTINO  
PIO AVG ET (?)  
CAESARI  
EL IVL  
CONSTANTI  
FIL AVG  
... E . LLO .

Imperatori Caesari  
Flavio Valerio  
Constantino  
pio Augusto et  
Caesari  
Flavio Julio  
Constanti  
filio Augusti  
.....

Besides these five stones, which are nearly entire, fragments of two others have been found in the same place. One of these has inscribed on it, of a large size, the well-formed letters IM, forming probably part of the word *Imperator*. The milestone, of which this fragment formed a part, has, it is feared, been destroyed long ago. Another fragment, forming apparently the bottom of a pedestal, has on it the letters L. I. Can these be intended for *Leuga una*, one league. On many French milestones leagues are given instead of miles.



Now it will naturally cause surprise that so many milestones should have been found in one spot. If used for the ordinary purpose of informing a traveller as to his progress on his journey, they would not require renewal at such short intervals as the inscriptions on these seem to indicate.

Besides, they do not, for the most part, give the distance from any place, but simply give the name of an emperor; and this is the case generally with milestones from the fourth century downwards. Mr. W. Thompson Watkin, in a paper which appears in the last volume of our Transactions,\* states that it is a common thing, especially on the continent, to find milestones in groups, and that it was the custom to renew these milliary columns in the reigns of successive emperors.

The Romans attached great importance to the construction of roads. It was only by having the means of easy access to the most distant of her possessions that Rome could hold the supremacy of empire which she did for so long a period. The charge of constructing or renewing her roads was committed to her greatest men, and they not only saw that they were constructed and kept in order, but they themselves laid out large sums upon them. Julius Cæsar was at one time *Curator* of the Appian Way, and he laid out great sums of his own money upon it. During the first years of Augustus, Agrippa repaired various roads at his own expense.† The office of *Curator viæ* was always considered a high dignity, and seems eventually to have been generally assumed by the emperors themselves. In the best ages of the republic and of the empire, the inspectors of the ways sought to benefit the state by making and maintaining its roads; in the decline of the empire, they sought to get benefit to themselves out of the roads. When each claimant of the purple had to assert his rights in the face of many rivals, the assuming the charge of the roads throughout the world was one mode of gazetting his pretensions. Hence the milestones seem to have been renewed as regularly as emperor after emperor met the usual fate of such functionaries, assassination, in the latter days of the empire.

In concluding this paper, may I express the hope that ere long I may have the privilege of bringing other milliaries before the notice of this Society, which, as yet, lie under the sod.

\* *Archæologia Aeliana*, X. 130.

\* Article *VIAE*, in Smith's *Dictionary of Antiquities*.