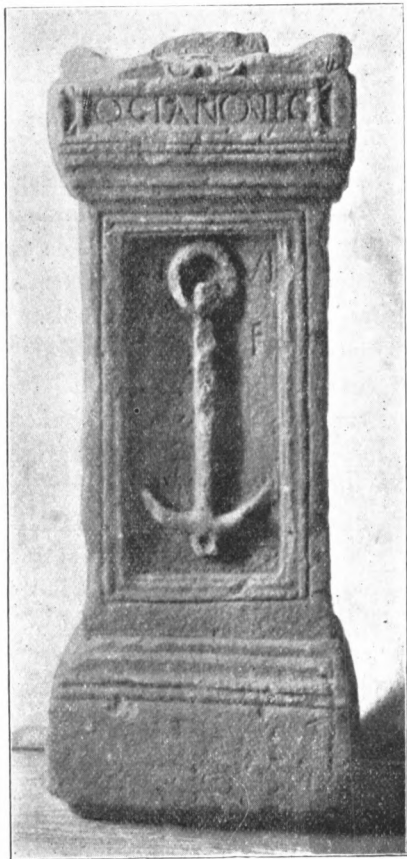


VIII.—DISCOVERY OF ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS, ETC.,
AT NEWCASTLE.

I. A ROMAN ALTAR TO 'OCEANUS' AND ALTAR BASE FROM THE
TYNE BRIDGE.

(a) BY R. OLIVER HESLOP, F.S.A., ONE OF THE SECRETARIES.

[Read on the 27th May, 1903.]



Divers have been employed by the River Tyne Commissioners for some time past in clearing obstructions from the north channel at

the Swing bridge. When thus engaged last Wednesday, they found a Roman Altar and a detached base stone embedded in the river bottom. Mr. James Walker, C.E., the river engineer, at once appreciated the nature of these relics, and by his order they were immediately removed to a place of safety. Obligations are due to him for allowing free and full examination of the stones, and for the care exercised by him in their preservation.

The altar is 4 feet 3 inches high, measuring $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches across its base and an equal width across its capital. From front to back the base measures $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the capital $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The connecting shaft is 2 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and 16 inches across its face, by 8 inches from back to front. Base and shaft and capital unite in a form of symmetrical, or, it may be said, even of graceful proportions; whilst the junction of each member is graduated by a band of simple ogee moulding.

The face of the shaft is decorated with a moulded panel occupying almost its entire surface, measuring 1 foot 9 inches high, by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, between the inner beads. The panel encloses the representation of a ship's anchor boldly sculptured, the surface being deeply sloped to bring the carving into relief. The shank of the anchor is surmounted by a ring, swivelled on a head. The two arms of the anchor appear to have been flattened towards their points. A projection below the crown is pierced by a hole, possibly an arrangement used in tricing up the anchor when it had reached the ship's hawse-hole. The representation of an object so familiar, complete in all its details, appears significant, not only of the early development of the typical form here shown, but of its long survival, (for it can hardly be said to have been even yet superseded. It will be seen, too, that we have here an example of forged iron work which could be produced only by handicraftsmen of great skill in their trade.

Each side of the altar shaft is relieved by a blank moulded panel, the depth of eight inches allowing no room for further sculpture. But the absence of elaboration is in keeping with the general design, adding greatly to its effect. The altar is plain at the back. A tenon at its foot shows that it had fitted into the socket of a separate base stone.

The volutes on the capital have been broken away by damage at

an early period ; but the focus on the top has been left almost intact. It is rectangular in form and is surrounded by a prominent lip.

Across the face of the capital, a narrow ansated panel is lettered with the first portion of the dedicatory inscription. The words are

OCIANO · LEG

The lettering is well cut and perfectly legible. Between the two words there is a minute leaf stop, point upwards. In the panel below, reading alternately on either side of the anchor, are the letters

VI

VI

P

F

Expanded the inscription reads : OCIANO LEGIO SEXTA VICTRIX PIA FIDELIS. 'To Oceanus, the Sixth Legion, the Victorious, the Pious, the Faithful [dedicates this altar].'¹

The second stone brought up from the river bed is evidently the loose base of an altar. Its upper edge is surrounded by an ogee moulding and its top recessed to receive a superstructure. The altar to Oceanus being placed on this base was found to be too broad for it, and the two stones were set apart again, the supposition being that they were not adapted for each other.

A casual examination of the Oceanus altar immediately suggested its correspondence with the Neptunus altar in the Black-gate museum. The latter was dredged up when the works of the Swing bridge were in progress. It is shown on page 133 on the left, and is illustrated in a preceding volume,² and a comparison with the newly discovered altar will show an identity of design and execution in the two. A careful measurement confirms this, for each answers to the other in every particular dimension. Both altars were found at the site of the Aelian bridge and have been in all probability connected in some way with that structure. They are twin productions, if not from the same chisel, certainly from one and the same design. The conclusion is a natural one ; that they originally furnished the right and left

¹ The *Legio Secunda Augusta* was sent to Britain in the time of the emperor Claudius [?]. The *Legio Sexta Victrix* left Spain in A.D. 70 for the Lower Rhine in Germany, whence in 120 it was sent to Britain ; in 89 it acquired the epithet of *pia fidelis*. The *Legio viii. Gemina* came to Britain in 43 from Germany, and returned thither in 70. The *Legio xv. Valeria Victrix* was sent to Illyricum in A.D. 10, thence it went to Cologne, where it remained till 43, when it was sent to Britain.

² *Arch. Ael.*, XII., p. 7.

side of a sanctuary dedicated to the deities typified on the faces of the stones. Neptune, 'the earth shaker,' rode upon, if indeed he did not rule, the waves. Oceanus was not only omnipresent at sea, venerated as father of all the gods, but was revered as presiding over the tributary rivers. He it was that the seafarer might propitiate before setting forth. The incoming sailor remembered Neptune, as the Batavian troops at PROCOLITIA remembered how he had brought them safely over the North Sea when they left us his form sculptured in repose.³ Thus it was that these deities had their shrine in one house, where he that came remembered the tutelary Neptune or he that fared forth bespoke the grace of Oceanus.

Looking on the faces of these twin altars we are reminded of this coming and going at the Quayside. They recall to us the fears and hopes that animated the embarking and the incoming travellers of that far-off time. Their votaries would include the civilian on business and the soldier on service. To them, too, would in all likelihood resort veterans of the Cohort of Aelian Marines, who won their diploma of citizenship in manning the fleet that may have sailed from under the walls of PONS AELII. And these altars are still typical of the port of Tyne and of its metropolis at Newcastle. For, as in the past, so in the present, we are found linking our fortune with Neptune and great Ocean.'⁴

(b) BY COMMANDANT R. MOWAT OF PARIS.

[Read on the 30th September, 1903.]

The discovery of the twin altars, respectively dedicated to Neptunus and to Oceanus by the sixth Legion Victrix, at the very spot where stood the old Roman bridge, is suggestive of comments which, even after the able paper of Mr. Heslop, are not near being exhausted.

³ See *Arch. Aeliana*, XII., p. 76.

⁴ The Oceanus altar and the base stone have since been presented to the Society by the River Tyne Commissioners. The base appears to be that intended originally for yet another altar. An extemporized base of wood has accordingly been made for the Oceanus altar, and the newly-found stone base has been temporarily set under the Neptunus altar in the Black-gate museum. Both altars now stand face to face on the step at the entrance of the east window recess.

From this remarkable coincidence and from the evident similitude of their structure, it is but natural to draw the consequence that they were intended to serve as extra ornaments to the *Pons Aelius* itself, at each side of the entrance of which they were symmetrically erected, most likely near the landing-place of the legion after crossing the Germanic ocean, when, quartered at VETERA (actually Xanten in Holland), it was ordered to proceed to Britain, and most likely headed by Hadrian himself, who was at that moment on his visit to Lower Germany. This took place in the year 121 according to Lenain de Tillemont, or rather in 122 according to the last researches of Hertzberg and of Dürr resumed by Goyau.¹

The legion, or at least a strong detachment of this corps, was at once engaged in the building of the bridge, in pursuance of the plan and under the eyes of the emperor; hence the denomination *Pons Aelius* derived from the gentile name of P. Aelius Hadrianus.

Altars consecrated to Neptune are relatively common, but the case stands different with regard to Oceanus; till the present not another altar bearing this name is recorded, either in Roman or in Greek epigraphics. Such a scarcity renders the Newcastle altar so much more interesting, since it brings back to our mind the historical instance of Alexander the Great erecting altars to the same deities, *Poseidon* and *Okeanos*, when he reached the shores of the Indian Ocean.² This invaluable monument testifies that Hadrian's army at the extreme northern end of the Roman empire meant to renew the act accomplished by the Macedonian soldiers at the southern limit of their conquests.

Since I sent my note about the twin altars dedicated to Neptune and to Oceanus, I have had the opportunity of examining in the Cabinet des Médailles de la Bibliothèque Nationale some coins of

¹ Hertzberg, *Histoire de la Grèce sous la domination romaine*, traduite par Schürer, etc., 1886-1890, II. p. 305, n. 1.—Dürr, *Die Reisen des Kaisers Hadrian*, 1881, p. 36 (*Abhandl. des arch. epigr. Seminars. Wien*).—Goyau, *Chronologie de l'empire romain*, p. 193.

² Arrian, *Indica*, 18.—Diodorus Siculus, xvii., 104.—Q. Curtius, ix., 9.—Plutarch, *Alex.*, lxvi. Arrian's words deserve a special quotation: 'He (Alexander) sacrificed to the gods which he used to serve by inheritance, or which were prescribed to him by the oracle, namely, Poseidon (Neptune), Amphitrite, the Nereids and even Okeanos himself, and the river Hydaspes, and the river Akesines into which flows the Hydaspes, and the Indus into which flow both the others.'

Hadrian, with reverses elucidating admirably these altars. They are described in the classical book of Cohen, *Description historique des monnaies frappées sous l'Empire romain*, 2nd ed., 1880-1890, vol. ii.:—

Obv.: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG. Bust of Hadrian, laureate, to right. *Rev.*: P M TR P COS III. Neptune standing to left, holding a dolphin in the right hand and a trident in the left. *Gold.* (p. 195, no. 1078.)

Obv.: Same legend and same bust. *Rev.*: P M TR P COS III. Neptune standing to right, holding a dolphin in the right hand and a trident in the left, leaning his left foot on the prow of a galley. *Gold.* (no. 1080.)



Obv.: Same legend, same bust. *Rev.*: P M TR P COS III. The sea-god Oceanus recumbent to left, holding upwards an anchor in his right hand, his left arm resting upon a dolphin or sea-monster, his forehead armed with two crab's claws. *Silver.* (p 198, no. 1109-1112.)

Beside these reverses, showing the very same emblems as figured on the altars, viz., the dolphin, the trident, and the anchor, I noticed another coin which is in close connexion with the above-mentioned:—

Obv.: Same legend, same bust. *Rev.*: P M TR P COS III. A river-god recumbent to left, holding a tiller in his right hand, his left arm leaning on an overturned urn, out of which flows a stream of water. *Gold.* (p 199, no. 1113.)

Cohen believes that this figure represents the river *Tiberis*; but in consequence of the conformity of its style with the type of Oceanus, I am rather inclined to recognise the river-god *Tina* (the Tyne). If this guess is right, it would lead me to suppose that an altar dedicated to this river-god possibly still remains embedded in the estuary of the Tyne, and had been erected by Hadrian's sixth legion somewhat with the same view as the altars dedicated by Alexander's army to the river-god Indus, together with those to *Poseidon* and to *Okeanos*. However, should Cohen's idea about the river-god *Tiberis* eventually prove to be right, I would of course adopt it; I would even give it a more precise form by saying that this coin commemorates the building over the river Tiber of the bridge also called *Pons Aelius* (the actual *Ponte Santo Angelo*), whose name revived on the Tiberian banks the fame of the Britannic *Pons Aelius* spanning the Tyne.³

2. AN INSCRIBED SLAB MENTIONING THE SECOND, SIXTH
AND TWENTIETH LEGIONS FROM THE RIVER TYNE.

(a) BY R. OLIVER HESLOP.

[Read on the 26th August, 1903.]

The discovery of an altar dedicated to Oceanus, found on the site of the Aelian bridge at Newcastle, was announced at our meeting in May last. This has been followed by the disinterment, on Thursday the 20th August, of another Roman inscribed stone at the same place and under similar conditions. We are again indebted to the engineer of the River Tyne Commissioners (Mr. James Walker) for the discovery itself, for the courtesy with which he has allowed the stone to be examined, and for the photographs now submitted for your inspection.

The stone before you has been a wall-tablet, inscribed upon a slab of sandstone, close grained and of great hardness. It measures twenty-six inches long by eighteen and three-quarter inches wide; and in its thinness, of about two inches only, it resembles one of our footpath flags. It is, with the exception of a slight crack, in an

³ Spartianus, *Hadriani vita*, xviii.: *fecit et sui nominis pontem*. Cf. Muratori, *Nov. thes. veter. insc.*, vol. IV., p. MMCXXXIV.: *Pons Aelius*.

almost flawless state ; the depth and conditions under which it has been buried having been so favourable to its preservation that tool marks are yet fresh upon it. Its whole face is covered with a moulded and ansated panel, the centre compartment being filled with lettering occupying nine lines. The inscription reads :—IMP . ANTON[I]NO . AVG . PIO . P . PAT . VEXIL[L]AT[I]O LEG . II . AVG . ET . LEG . VI . VIC . ET . LEG . XX . VV . CON[T]R[I]BVTI . EX . GER . DVOBVS . SVB . IVLIO . VERO . LEG . AVG . PR . P . Expanded thus :—IMP(ERATORI) . ANTONINO . AVG(VSTO) . PIO . P(ATRI) . PAT(RIAE) .



INSCRIBED SLAB FROM THE TYNE

(26 ins. by 18½ ins.).

VEXIL[L]ATIO . LEG(IONIS) . SECVNDAE . AVG(VSTAE) . ET . LEG(IONIS) . SEXTAE . VIC(TRICIS) . ET . LEG(IONIS) . VICESIMAE . V(ALERIAE) V(ICTRICIS) . CON[T]R[I]BVTI . EX . GER(MANIIS) . DVOBVS . SVB . IVLIO . VERO . LEG(ATO) . AVG(VSTI) . PR(O)P(RAETORE) .

As Antoninus Pius became emperor in A.D. 138, and was succeeded by Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 161, the date of the Newcastle inscription falls presumably within the period of 23 years thus represented. Towards the end of A.D. 139 and in A.D. 140 the Propraetor Quintus Lollius Urbicus was engaged in building the Antonine Wall

in Scotland. But the Newcastle stone records the presence of another distinguished imperial legate in the person of Julius Verus. Again, detachments of the three legions here named were the builders of the Antonine Wall. Four of its sections were completed by those of the second legion, four sections by those of the sixth legion, and three sections of its length, with other connected works, were built by those of the twentieth legion. The work done is recorded by each for itself; in one instance only, on the Antonine Wall, are any two of the vexillations associated in one inscription. But in the Newcastle inscription occurs the remarkable conjunction of all three vexillations. A note of Horsley may be quoted in this connexion:—‘Excepting the Germans,’ he says, ‘we seldom or never have the *vexillatio* of any but legionary soldiers, either in the Roman historians, or any of our Roman inscriptions in Britain.—The Germans seem to be spoken of as fit for expedition, and are particularly on several occasions famed for their swimming. Tacitus tells us that the Roman soldiers being loaded with their arms were afraid to swim, but the Germans were accustomed to it, and qualified for it by the lightness of their arms and the tallness of their bodies.’ ‘If,’ continues Horsley, ‘the notion of *vexillarii* and *vexillatio*, which I have already endeavoured to establish, be right (he had described them as picked men from the legion, despatched on special service, as our grenadiers used to be), we may hence be furnished with a good reason why there should be vexillations of Germans rather than any other auxiliary forces’ (*Britannia Romana*, p. 298).

The large force represented by the association of three vexillations, and their command by an imperial legate, indicate operations of more than ordinary importance. Of their nature and extent our tablet is silent. That it records the execution of work of magnitude, either on the Roman bridge itself or in the adjacent stationary camp of PONS ÆELII, may be reasonably presumed.

The slab has been very generously presented to the Society by the Tyne Improvement Commissioners.

(b) BY F. HAVERFIELD, F.S.A.

[Read on the 30th September, 1903.]

In March, 1872, during the construction of the present Swing-bridge, at Newcastle, the remains of the Roman bridge of PONS AELII (or AELIUS) were detected in the Tyne.¹ In 1875, during the continuation of the same work, a fine altar was discovered bearing the brief inscription, NEPTUNO LE(GIO) VI VI(CTRIX) P(IA) F(IDELIS).² Twenty-eight years later, in May, 1903, when the north channel of the Swing-bridge needed cleansing, the twin of this altar was found, bearing an equally brief legend, OCIANO LEG(IO) VI VIC(TRIX) P(IA) F(IDELIS).³ Finally, in August, 1903, during the same operations, a third inscription has been found of greater length and of considerable interest.

The stone which bears this inscription is a plain ansate slab of a close-grained sandstone, 26 inches long, 19 inches high, and 2 inches thick. It is singularly well preserved and legible throughout. The letters resemble in style those of other inscriptions of the same period: in height they measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in lines 1, 2; $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in lines 3-7, and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch or 1 inch in the last two lines. They look neat, but are not really well cut and are not free from errors. *Duobus* is a blunder for *duabus*—unless some word like *exercitibus* has been omitted—and letters have been overlooked in cutting lines 3 and 8. Here the workman seems to have first drawn or painted the letters correctly on the stone, but in cutting, VEXILL has been carelessly reproduced as VEX IL (x unfinished), and a tied T and I have been left out of CONTRIBVTI. I have myself examined the stone: it has been given by the Tyne Commissioners to the Blackgate collection. The text is as follows:—

IMP. ANTONINO AVG(VSTO) PIO P(ATRI) PAT(RIAE), VEXILLATIO
LEG(IONIS) II AVG(VSTAE) ET LEG(IONIS) VI VIC(TRICIS) ET LEG-
(IONIS) V(ALERIAE) V(ICTRICIS), CONTRIBVTI EX GER(MANIIS) DVO-
BVS, SVB IVLIO VERO LEG. AVG. PR. PR.

¹ Bruce, *Arch. Ael.* x. 1; *Lapidarium*, p. 461.

² Catalogue of the Blackgate Museum, No. 13; *Ephemeris*, iii. No. 199.

³ *Proceedings*, third series, i. 50. I imagine that *Ociano*, for *Oceano*, is simply bad spelling: inscriptions give other instances, *bine* for *bene*, *mimoriam* for *memoriam*, and the like.

‘In honour of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, erected by a draft of the legion II Augusta and the legion VI Victrix and the legion XX Valeria Victrix, levied from the two provinces of Germany, under Iulius Verus, governor.’

The inscription is couched in a common form, such as is often used to commemorate a building, though, in accordance with the unimaginative and practical character of Roman military epigraphy, the actual work need not be mentioned.⁴ In this case, however, the addition of the phrase *contributi ex Germaniis* suggests another reason. The men who set up the slab had (as they state) been sent from the Rhine to replenish the three legions which garrisoned Britain, and the slab records their arrival in our island. Presumably they had come over-sea, had sailed up the Tyne, landed at PONS AELIUS, and were about to start on their campaigning. A similar voyage, with an inscription at the end, is indicated by the two altars found previously, dedicated to Neptune and Ocean.⁵ Such dedications have no meaning at Newcastle, save as offerings after a voyage over open seas. They must commemorate the landing of some draft of the sixth legion, possibly that mentioned on our new stone, possibly some other at a different date, possibly the first arrival of the legion from Germany, which an inscription found in Rome (c. vi. 1549) allows us to date about A.D. 125.⁶

The draft is described on the new inscription in unusual terms.

⁴ It might be the bridge itself, for (so far at least as the name goes) the *Aelian* bridge could date as well from Pius as from Hadrian.

⁵ By itself the altar to Neptune would not prove this, for Neptune appears in other relations besides those of the sea, and apparently had some connexion with bridges (Domaszewski, *Wd. Correspondenzblatt*, xv. (1896) p. 234). But Oceanus is god of the open ocean and that only, and the altars are a pair.

⁶ One detail suits the age of Hadrian and Pius. That age was marked by a Greek literary revival and the dedications of the two altars distinctly betray Greek literary influences. Neptunus as god of the open sea appears chiefly in literature, as the result of identification with Poseidon. Oceanus is obviously Greek and indeed literary Greek. He occurs commonly in Greek literature, from whence he was taken over into Roman literature. But he hardly ever occurs on Greek or Roman inscriptions. Coins of Hadrian show him holding his anchor (but without his name, Cohen 1109-12): eastern Colonial coins of later emperors show him with his name (Eckhel iii. 390, iv. 39; Mionnet, v. 449, and suppl. vi. 152). An undated Mithraic monument found at Hedderheim shows him with his anchor and his name appended (Cumont, *Wd. Zeitschrift*, xiii. 94). A little dedication on a bronze plate, found at York, names ‘Oceanus and Tethys’ and is in Greek (*Ephemeris*, iii. p. 312); it is unfortunately undatable, but its literary associations are unmistakable and indeed its dedicator, Scribonius Demetrius, may have been a Greek himself.

It is called a *vevillatio* of three legions,⁷ though nominally a *vevillatio* is confined to one legion, of which it forms a detachment. Probably, as prof. Mommsen suggests to me, the draft, though definitely designated for the three legions, is treated at the landing place as one draft and not yet three. Equally strange is the term *contributi*, to which only one parallel seems known — an African inscription describing a soldier as CONTRIBUTUS EX LEG(IONE) III GALLICAE (*sic*) IN LEG(IONEM) III AUG(USTAM).⁸ Doubtless it denotes some special levy of Germans for service in the British legions. We know that during the second century Britain and Germany to some extent exchanged recruits for legions and for auxiliary regiments: here we seem to have not so much the normal recruits as drafts of special reinforcements.

The date of the inscription may perhaps provide a reason for special reinforcements. It belongs obviously to the reign of Pius (A.D. 138-161), and that reign, though generally peaceful and prosperous, was not without its border troubles. In Britain, in particular, Lollius Urbicus was engaged in serious warfare about A.D. 142, and embodied the lessons of the unrest in the Vallum of Antoninus, reaching from Clyde to Forth. Perhaps, however, our new inscription belongs to a later period in the reign of Pius. Julius Verus, who appears here for the first time as governor of Britain, is otherwise known to us. He governed Syria about A.D. 163-5, and about that time received a rescript from the joint Emperors, Marcus and Verus, which is quoted in the Digest.⁹ To this we may now add that he governed Britain, and in full accordance with second-century usage, governed it before Syria. What interval elapsed between his British and Syrian governorships, we do not know. But it can hardly have been as much as twenty years, and we may therefore reject the idea that he immediately preceded or succeeded Lollius Urbicus in A.D. 142. We may more reasonably assign him to the later part of the reign of Pius, and connect therewith one or two other stray facts.

First, Julius Verus seems to be mentioned on a fragmentary in-

⁷ It does not seem permissible to take *vevillatio* as an abridgment of *vevillationes*, arbitrary as the Latin practice of abbreviation is.

⁸ *C.I.L.* viii. 3157, Dessau, 2317: I owe the reference to Mommsen.

⁹ *C.I.L.* iii. 199, 8174 (?); Digest xlviii. 16, 18; Prosop. ii. 218.

scription found—only a few days after the Tyne inscription—built into a Roman wall in the Roman fort at Brough near Hope in Derbyshire. This inscription records something—possibly the building or repair of the fort—executed by the *Cohors I. Aquitanorum* SVB IVLIO V AVG | PR PR, and I think that we may here reasonably conjecture *Vero*. This evidence of military activity under Verus, both on the Tyne and in Derbyshire, suggests disquiet among the Brigantes rather than campaigns in Caledonia such as those of Lollius Urbicus. If we may further identify him with the Julius . . . mentioned on a Netherby inscription, not improbably of this period (C. 967, *Lapidarium*, 777), we shall be able to trace his activity in another corner of the Brigantian territory.



INSCRIPTION FOUND AT BROUGH, DERBYSHIRE.

Again, Pausanias alludes (8.43) casually to operations against the Brigantes in the reign of Pius. 'Pius annexed (says Pausanias) the larger part of their territory because they commenced an armed raid upon the Genunian region, subject to Rome.' Unfortunately no date is given, the Genunian region (τὴν Γενουνίαν μοῖραν) is unknown, and the position of the Brigantes is not very clearly described. Their territory, however, so far as we know, included northern England

from Derbyshire to the neighbourhood of the Tyne and the Solway,¹⁰ and since the building of Hadrian's Wall most of that district must have been within the Roman province. Pausanias, however, speaks of the Brigantes as if they were an external tribe raiding across the border into Roman land. The truth may be that they had been allowed some degree of local autonomy, had now misused it, and lost much of their lands in punishment.

Thirdly, when Marcus succeeded to the Imperial throne, in A.D. 161, he found unrest existing in Britain. Two or three years later, Calpurnius Agricola restored peace. This general is mentioned on three or four inscriptions,¹¹ but never north of Hadrian's Wall, and it would seem that his operations must have, at any rate, included the Brigantian area. These facts seem to indicate a period of unrest south of Hadrian's Wall, during the years before and after A.D. 161. Perhaps we may append to this some less certain items. It is, at any rate, noteworthy that, so far as our faint evidence goes, two other hill forts besides Brough, those at Slack and Templeborough, seem to have been occupied near the middle of the second century. It is also noteworthy, though I do not know that it has been noted, that the town-walls of the Romano-British town ISURIUM (Aldbrough) are quite reasonably referable to the same epoch. They are built differently from the town-walls visible elsewhere in Britain: the style of masonry, and in particular the 'diamond-broaching' of the facing-stones, resembles the masonry of the Walls of Hadrian and Pius, and might therefore be conjecturally attributed to the second or early third century.¹² ISURIUM lies in the open lowlands of the Vale of York. But it is in the Brigantian area: it is not far from the hill-country and it might need fortification if the hill-men rose. It may, after all, be more than a coincidence that the masonry of its walls suits a period when there was unrest near at hand.

¹⁰ Ptolemy: inscriptions to Brigantia at various places between Birrens and South Yorkshire (at South Shields for instance.—ED.) (*Archaeological Journal* xlix. 192): Coin find near Huddersfield (*Numismatic Chronicle*, xvii. (1897) 293). Had their territory lain further north, we might connect the passage with Lollius Urbicus and his annexation of southern Scotland, but there is no evidence of Brigantes in that country.

¹¹ *C.I.L.* vii. 225, 758, 773, and possibly 334, 774.

¹² The diamond-broaching at ISURIUM is figured, not very correctly, by H.E. Smith, *Reliquiae Isurianae* (London, 1852), plate viii. Specimens from Barrhill, on the Wall of Pius, are figured in the Glasgow Archæological Society's *Antonine Wall Report*, p. 61.

We can now sketch, a little more fully than before, the condition of northern Britain about the middle of the second century. A hundred years had elapsed since Romans first met Brigantes; twenty years had elapsed since Hadrian built his wall from Tyne to Solway. Yet, in A.D. 142, Lollius Urbicus found serious measures needed, and built a second wall from Forth to Clyde, not to supersede the old one but to supplement it and to sever more effectually the subject south from the free north. Still, the south was not crushed. Twenty years later, if I am right, when a new generation had grown up, the Brigantes rose and their subdual lasted several years. And again, twenty years later, we read of fresh revolts, beaten down, not in one year's campaign, by Ulpus Marcellus (about A.D. 184-5).¹³ This is not the end of the story, but it is not now my business to follow it.¹⁴ Here it is enough to have shown that in the most prosperous and successful age of the empire, Britain was in part untamed.¹⁵ Perhaps we may praise the Britains for their long fight: I do not know whether we ought to blame the Romans. Britain was distant: war in Britain was costly and difficult: it seemed best to be inefficient. That is the attitude of many great empires. They are too vast for human rulers to secure efficiency in every corner, too vast also for little faults to seem to matter. Like the larger animals of the natural world, they are slow to see little things and slow to suffer from them. Yet the development of the world is towards the extinction of mammoth and mastodon and the increase of the smaller animals.

3. TWO STONE COFFINS OF THE ROMAN PERIOD, IN ONE OF THEM HUMAN BONES AND AN URN.

BY FRANK W. RICH.

[Read on the 28th October, 1903.]

On the 6th October, while workmen were engaged in excavating the site for a new warehouse in Clavering place, for Messrs. R.

¹³ On Ulpus see *Arch. Ael.* xix., 179. It would be simpler, I now think, to refer *C.I.L.* vii., 504, and the Chesters stone, to the joint rule of Marcus and Commodus, rather than (with Hübner) to the joint rule of Marcus and Verus.

¹⁴ Brough fort was obviously rebuilt at some time later than Pius. Other Derbyshire and Yorkshire forts were occupied in the third century, beside those on the great main roads to the Wall.

¹⁵ Britain was not the only case. Witness, for example, the life of such a man as Julius Vehilius Gratus.

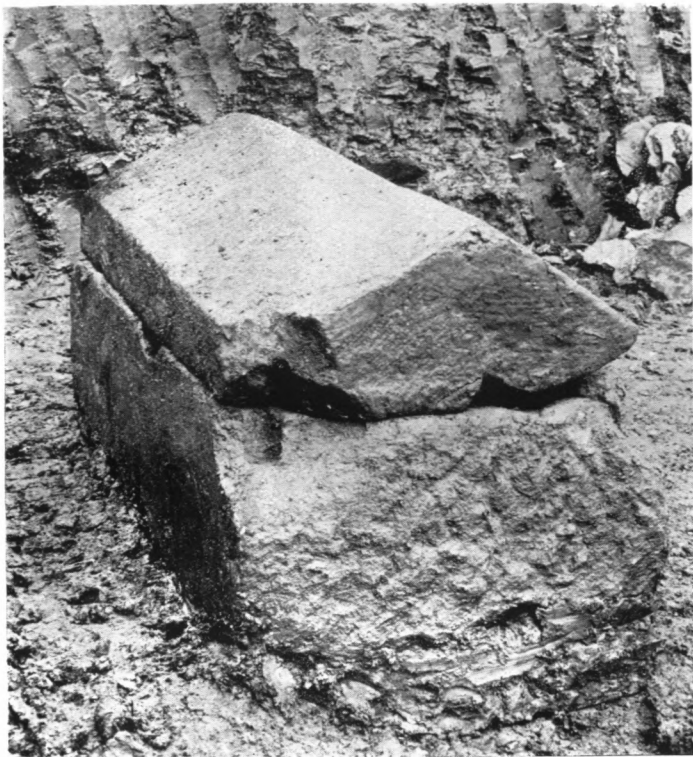
Robinson & Co., Ltd., they laid bare a stone coffin, lying nearly north and south, at a depth of 8 feet 8 inches below the present surface of the street, the subsoil being nearly all of solid clay.

When found, it was complete with coped lid in position, but when the matter was reported to me the lid had been removed, and the contents of the coffin had been interfered with. The coffin appears to be of the ordinary sandstone of the district, the outside measurements being : length 4 feet, width 2 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and depth 1 foot 2 inches. The thickness of the sides and ends is from $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 4 inches, so that the internal dimensions are about 3 feet 4 inches long by 1 foot 4 inches wide. This would point to the fact that, presuming the body was buried entire, it was the interment of a young person. The coped lid is about 11 inches thick at one end and 9 inches at the other ; the apex is not quite central, nor are the two edges quite the same thickness, but this may be owing to indifferent masonry. The lid is also hollowed on the underside. There are four square dowel holes, one at each corner of the coffin, and corresponding ones in the lid. In some of the dowel holes, lead, in a molten state, has been run in.

A very fine urn of characteristic Roman pottery and design, with slip ornament in relief, and measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest diameter, the base being $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, and the mouth or neck $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches, was found at what appeared to be the foot of the coffin, but as far as I could learn, the vessel when found was empty. Strewn on the bottom of the coffin were some bones of a skull, and what appeared to be ribs, but none of the bones of the legs, arms, or vertebrae. Some small remnants of charcoal were found at the foot of the coffin.

A few days afterwards, another stone coffin was laid bare, adjacent to the former coffin, but of much ruder masonry, but it was quite empty. It is made of rough stone about 3 feet 9 inches long, and about 2 feet wide in its widest part, with a cavity about 2 feet 5 inches long 10 inches at the wide end, and 9 inches wide at the narrow end, the cavity being about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. This was covered with a plain rough stone lid.

The plate shews the first coffin discovered and the little vase that was in it, both from photographs by Messrs. Thompson & Lee of



COFFIN AS FOUND WITH LID IN POSITION.

[Length, 4 feet; width, 2 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.]

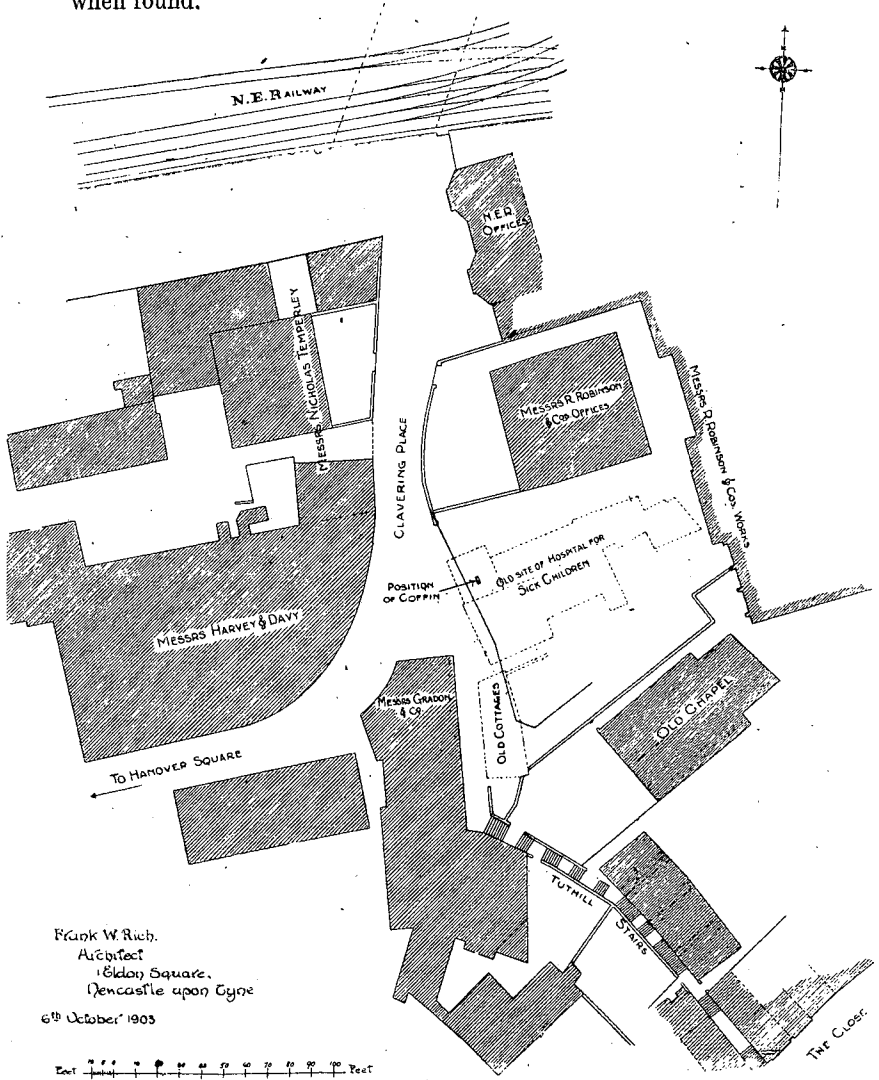


URN FOUND INSIDE THE COFFIN.

[Height, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.]



Newcastle. The plan annexed shews the exact position of the coffin when found.



PLAN SHOWING WHERE THE COFFIN WAS FOUND.

I have the honour of presenting on behalf of Messrs. Robinson & Co., Ltd., the two coffins and urn to this Society, for the Blackgate museum.