

2.—ALTAR FROM FEATHERWOOD, REDESDALE.

In the autumn of 1914 some workmen engaged in laying new metal on the Roman road $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Bremenium (High Rochester), close to the steading of Featherwood, found lying in



ROMAN ALTAR, FEATHERWOOD, REDESDALE.

the grass a Roman altar. It was brought down to BirdhopeCraig hall and has since been placed in the porch of Horsley church. I am indebted to Mr. R. Blair for a photograph and to the Rev. Thomas Stephens, vicar of Horsley, for further photographs, an excellent squeeze and various information.

The altar is a block of local stone, 51 ins. high and 22 ins. wide, quite plain and unadorned. It has six lines of lettering about 2 ins. tall, which has mostly been reduced to illegibility through long exposure; the fourth line, as Mr. Stephens writes to me, seems also to have been intentionally obliterated. Nothing is really clear except the first and last lines; elsewhere various letters can be seen or conjectured, but I have failed to extract coherent sense out of them, nor (I may add) can I detect any reference to the Cohors I Vardullorum which garrisoned Bremenium. The certain or probable letters are:—

VICTORIAE	<i>only bottom of final E visible</i>
ET . . . IVL	<i>ET probable but not certain</i>
MEIANIC	<i>only M is quite certain</i>
II O	<i>erased on purpose</i>
PUBLICO .	
V · S · L <i>m</i>	

That is, the altar was set up to Victory. It is tempting to suppose that the next line went on ET N AVG, *et numinibus Augustorum*, as do one or two other altars to Victoria, but the squeeze does not favour this idea. One may hope by examining the original to read more, but it will only be by long and repeated examinations.

The altar may safely be classed with the other Bremenium altars. It was perhaps brought thence when Featherwood was built.