

XIII.—A NEWLY DISCOVERED CENTURIAL STONE AT HOUSESTEADS.

[Read on the 26th April, 1922].

By R. C. BOSANQUET, F.S.A.

In March, 1880, Mr. John Clayton communicated to the monthly meeting of the Society a centurial inscription discovered by his workmen *in situ* in the south face of the wall half a mile east of *Cilurnum*, and gave it as his opinion that this centurial stone was probably the last that would be discovered in the Wall of Hadrian. Happily this prediction has not been justified, and no one would rejoice more than he who uttered it, could he be present to-night and know that a similar discovery, of a centurial stone *in situ* in the face of the Wall, had been made by one of his own old workmen. Such discoveries are rare. Hodgson in his *History of Northumberland* (II, iii, p. 296) records one with satisfaction. 'Thirty feet west of the junction of the murus and the north wall of the station [*Amboglanna*], Sept 2, 1833, I found a centurial stone in its original situation in the fourth course of the north side facing-stones from the surface, inscribed COH IIII PROBIAN It is the only inscription I have seen remaining in its original situation, through the whole of this chain of fortifications.'

Hodgson's stone was on the north side in the fourth course 'from the surface,' *i.e.* the later ground-level, and we do not know how many courses were buried. John Clayton's was on the south side 'in the third course of stones from its base.' The stone of which I now report the discovery was found by Mrs. Clayton's caretaker at Housesteads, Thomas Thompson, in the third course above ground, on the south face of the Wall, somewhat to the west of the fort.

Like Hodgson and John Clayton before him he thought well to remove it from the Wall, substituting one of similar size, and place it in safe-keeping. It reads: *C(enturia) Iuli | Candidi | F(aci)*.



It is $11\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long, $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high, $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. thick.

A stone in the museum at Chesters, found between *Borcovicus* and Cawfields, bears what may be a record of the same century *Coh. I. c(enturia) Iuli Candid(i)* (*C.I.L.*, VII, 667, *Lapid. Sept.*, 210).