

THE HALINGHEN INSCRIPTION IN THE MUSEUM OF  
BOULOGNE.

MY DEAR PRICE,—I lose no time in imparting to you the result of my review of the valuable dedicatory monument, the subject of our friend's paper in vol. v. p. 145, of "Proceedings" of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society; and of my researches in the Pas de Calais, printed in the first number of the first volume of my *Collectanea Antiqua*.

This very monument was one of the main inducements to my visit to Boulogne, Halinghen, Etaples, &c. It was the *alpha* of my tours in France, and up to the present moment it is the *omega*; for in again sketching this monument last autumn I ended an excursion made to Bourges, Périgueux, and some of the chief towns of the South of France. When I first saw it, many years ago, it was in the little church of Halinghen, a wild district upon high ground to the left of the main road from Boulogne to Etaples; and I and a friend did not reach it until dark, when we, with some difficulty, in a stormy night, examined it by candle-light. I was, however, satisfied that I had succeeded in sketching it correctly. Its position in the museum of Boulogne afforded me a much better opportunity; and as I had learned from you that my version of the inscription did not, in a very main point, agree with that of our friend, I was, if possible, more careful than before in drawing it.

On my return I found that the etching in the "*Collectanea Antiqua*" is perfectly correct, with a very slight but not unimportant exception, and that is in the second letter of the first line. The upper part has been so much broken away as to leave the original letter questionable. It now appears as an I; but it may have been a T. The first letter is, as I have given it, an E, and most certainly not a D. The engraving also in the *Mémoires* of the Society of Antiquaries of the Morini, vol. ii. quoted by me, is very faithfully done. The stone, originally an altar, had been sawn by the early Christians for adaptation as a font; and as to the top there can be no doubt the upper line was severed, so that we must look for some such words as NVMINI AVG; and then

the second line would naturally be ET DEO IOVI; and this I am now inclined to think it must have been, rather than EIDEO IOVI. The DI·DEO is rendered impossible by the visible and obvious E.

I need not here refer to the several instances I have given to inscriptions recording Jupiter Dolychenus : they could easily be multiplied. The *Vicus Dolucens* of the inscription it is very probable may be reflected in the town of Doulens, which is at no remote distance. It is not to be supposed that the Roman altar was necessarily erected at Halinghen. It may have been sent there, cut down and hollowed for a font, by the founder of the church. The *Dolensis Vicus* and the *Dolus* of the "Notitia Galliarum" of Hadrian of Valois seem too remote, and therefore not so likely to be recorded on this altar as the locality I suggest.

The museum of Boulogne contains two monumental inscriptions to commanders of the British fleet, which I have given and written on in my volume of the antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne, and more fully in the Supplementary Report on Excavations at Lymne. Also the remains discovered at Etaples. These were of surpassing interest, having been disinterred from a rather extensive *Vicus* covered with sand (*dunes*.) (See vol. i. Col. Ant.) They were properly kept together in the museum a few years since ; but I was sorry to see they had become separated and dispersed into different cases without any regard to their local history.

It has also a remarkable Roman monument from the church of Frencq, between Halinghen and Etaples, which I formerly sketched at a disadvantage when it was in the exterior wall of the church at a considerable height.

While on the work of rectification allow me to endorse what on a former occasion I remarked to you in reference to the Tretyre altar in Mr. C. Baily's paper. The photograph shows that the *Beccicus* is really *BELLICVS*, a common Romano-British and Romano-Gaulish name.

Yours very sincerely,

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Temple Place, Strood, January 22nd, 1877.

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