

## ROMAN LANCASTER.

By *W. Thompson Watkin, Esq.*

(READ JANUARY 13TH, 1876.)

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Like many other cities boasting of a high antiquity, the early history of Lancaster is almost totally unknown. That it existed as a British town before the Roman invasion is probable, from the occasional discovery of celts, flint arrow heads, &c., in the soil on which it stands. Of its having been a Roman station there is fortunately no doubt whatever. The frequent discovery of inscribed Roman altars, tombstones, &c., as well as coins, Samian ware, and other pottery—and the occurrence of large foundations of buildings, walls, and baths, prove it to have been long occupied by a Roman garrison and civil population. This is confirmed by its etymology. Of the date of the erection of the *castrum* we are however in ignorance, but it is certain that it existed at a comparatively early period of the Roman dominion, from the fact of a *miliarium* or milestone of the Emperor Hadrian, dated A.D. 120, having been found within a few miles of it, on the line of Roman road connecting it with the Roman station at Overborough.

Of its Roman name we are, for the present, still ignorant; but our ignorance may at any moment be removed by further discoveries of Roman inscriptions at or near the site. Various are the names which have been given to it. Camden, Horsley, and Rauthmel considered it the *Longovicus* or *Longovicum* of the *Notitia*. Reynolds considered it was the *Bremetonacae* of the Tenth Iter of Antoninus. The late Mr. Just considered

it was the *Bremetenacum* of the *Notitia*, which he apparently thinks was the same as the *Bremetonacae* of Antoninus. Dr. Stukeley in his "Account of Richard of Cirencester," p. 53, thinks it was *Ad Alauna*; and in this he is supported by Mr. Whitaker in his *History of Manchester*; who considers it was both the *Ad Alauna* of Richard, and the *Longovicus* of the *Notitia*. The recent complete exposure of the Itinerary of Richard, and its now almost general acceptance as a forgery only, disposes of the claims of Lancaster to the name of *Ad Alauna*, for though there are six places bearing this name to be found in the Chorography of Ravennas as being in Roman Britain, none of them appear to be near the site of Lancaster. Of the other names I certainly prefer *Longovicus*, as having the strongest claim, though I am by no means satisfied with it. The time has not yet arrived when we can speak with certainty.

Of the composition of the garrison of Lancaster we have fortunately better proofs. It appears to have been a cavalry station. At one time, probably for many years, it was occupied by the 2nd Ala of the Gauls, which bore the title of Sebosian or Sebusian—(ALA II GALLORVM SEBOSIANA.) This is arrived at from the discovery of an inscription recording the restoration of a Bath and Basilica, in the reign probably of Caracalla, A.D. 212 to 217, or that of Elagabalus, A.D. 218 to 222, which was found in a garden near the top of Church Street; and also by the discovery of a brick- or tile-kiln at Quernmore, near the town, many of the tiles being inscribed. These latter bore the words ALE SEBUSIA.

From the Malpas *tabula* of the Emperor Trajan we find that the full names of this regiment were, as I have above stated, ALA II GALLORVM SEBOSIANA, and that it was in Britain as early as A.D. 104. That it was not, however, stationed at Lancaster during the whole of its stay in Britain we have proof, from the fact of a large and handsome



altar, to the god Silvanus, having been erected by Caius Tetius Veturius Micianus, one of its prefects, on Bollihope Common, near Stanhope in Weardale (Co. Durham), and now preserved at Stanhope rectory. On this, he is called PRAEF. ALAE SEBOSIANAE, which shews that in inscriptions relating to the regiment, the words II GALLORVM were not always used. Again, from a broken tombstone found in Cheapside, (then Pudding Lane) in 1772, and now lost, we gather from some remaining letters that another cavalry regiment, probably the ALA AVGVSTA, which at one time was stationed at Old Carlisle, or the ALA AVGVSTA VOCONTIORVM, of which we find traces at Eildon in Scotland, and at York, was stationed here.

Another peculiarity of this station is, that it *does not appear* (for excavations can only determine the point with certainty) to be built upon the usual Roman plan of a square or parallelogram, but approaches to a heptagonal shape. It is situated on a small hill overlooking the river Lune, which is here navigable for vessels of a considerable size. From small portions of the walls remaining, and their foundations being visible in other places, they seem to have been six feet thick. They appear to have suffered greatly, after the departure of the Roman garrison, from the attacks of Scots and Danes, and from intestinal wars during the Saxon period, so that at the time of the Norman Conquest they were virtually ruinous. The Conqueror bestowed the site upon Roger de Poitou, who immediately afterwards erected the castle, utilising for that purpose some of the Roman towers and portions of the walls. At the same time he erected a priory, in the charter of which he says that, "dedit Deo et Sancto Martino "ecclesiam Sanctae Mariae de Lanecastro cum omnibus ad "eam pertinentibus, et partem terrae illius villae à veteri "muro," &c. This shews that, even at that early period, the remains of the Roman fortress were called "The Old Wall."

That both town and *castrum* were reduced to a miserable condition at this time seems evident from the Domesday survey, where Lancaster appears to be divided into two vills, which, with twenty others (twenty-two in all) are noticed as belonging to Halton. These vills belonged to the Saxon Earl Tosti, and the Norman survey specifies the number of carucates in each. The portion referring to Lancaster itself says that in "Loncastre" there were six carucates, and in "Cherca-loncastre," which seems to mean "Church by Lancaster," two carucates of land to be taxed.

The frequent incursions of the Scots during the middle ages caused the walls of the castle several times to suffer severely, so that much of what remained of the Roman work was doubtless still further destroyed, and at the same time those portions of the Roman walls which had not been incorporated with the castle fared similarly; so far indeed that Leland, in the time of Henry VIII, took the latter for part of the wall of the priory. He adds:—"Some have thereby supposid that it was a peace of the waulle of the towne. "But yndeade I espyed in noe place that the towne was ever wallid."\* He could not find, he says, any trace of what he considered Roman stonework above ground, "but in those partes in the fieldes and fundations hath been found moche "Romaine coyne."

All that Camden says in his *Britannia* concerning Roman Lancaster, with the exception of telling us that Roman coins were sometimes found, is:—

Below this (the church) at the beautiful bridge over the Lone, on the steep of the hill, hangs a piece of very old wall, of Roman work, called "Wery Wall," from the later British name of this town as it should seem.†

The next writer on the subject was Dr. Stukeley, who

\* Leland, *Itin.* Vol. V, p. 93.

† Gough's *Camden*, edit. 1789. Vol. III, p. 131.



visited Lancaster about 150 years ago, and who in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, vol. II, p. 38, says :—

I found a great piece of the wall, made of the white stone of the country, and very hard mortar and still very thick, though the facing on both sides has been peeled off for the sake of the square stones which they used in building. A year or two ago a great parcel of it was destroyed with much labour. This reached quite to the Bridge Lane, and hung over the street, at the head of the precipice, in a dreadful manner; it went round the verge of the close north of the church, and took in the whole circuit of the hill, and the ditch on the north side of it is now to be seen. I suppose it enclosed the whole top of the hill where the church and castle stand.

Mr. West in his *Guide to the Lakes*, published in 1799, says at p. 17 :—

On the north side of the hill below the churchyard are some remains of the wall that encompassed the station. It retains part of the ancient name of the place, being called Wery-wall. Those who suppose it to be that part of the priory inclosure wall, which was situated on the north side of the churchyard, may be satisfied it is not so by viewing the part of the inclosure wall yet standing, which is a thin mouldering fabric; whereas the Wery-wall is a cemented mass that nothing but great violence can injure. Another fragment of it stands at the stile on the foot-path, under the west end of the churchyard. [This was soon afterwards destroyed.] The father of the late William Bradshaw, Esq., of Halton, remembered the Wery-wall projecting over Bridge Lane and pointing directly to the river. . . . At Bridge Lane this wall makes an angle, and runs along the brow of the hill behind the houses, in a line to Church Street, which it crosses about Covell-cross. This is attested by the owners of the gardens, who have met with it in that direction, and always found blue clay under the foundation stones.

These old writers derive the name of "Wery Wall" from an assumption that the British name of Lancaster was *Caer Weridd*, a name which originated with Camden, and for which I cannot see the shadow of a foundation.

The last writer on "Roman Lancaster" is the Rev. Robert Simpson, M.A., who, in his *History of Lancaster*, (1852), p. 124, says :—

The field immediately below the churchyard of St. Mary, and between it and the river, retains the appearance of a Roman fortification, a double vallum, and only a few years since a portion of the wall which had surrounded it was visible in the path that leads from the church to the quay; and another part, under the north wall of the summer house in the garden of Mr. Willan, still exists. The portions which projected into Bridge Lane have been removed, but in a garden on the declivity of the hill to the north, and behind houses leading to the quay, some slight remains of the wall may still be seen. From these specimens it appears to have been a strongly-cemented mass, six feet in thickness, bearing the precise character of the remains of the Roman castle of Manchester.

These fragments of wall still (1875) exist. From what is above ground it is impossible to say whether any bonding tiles have been used in their construction, the facing stones being almost entirely gone. The tracks of several of the streets are still visible in the Vicarage fields, where the ground does not appear to have been disturbed; but on this head I cannot speak with certainty. It would, however, no doubt richly reward any one attempting an exploration. The vicarage is built on the very edge of the *castrum*, and in digging its foundations, some years ago, great numbers of coins were found. They consisted chiefly of the reigns of Claudius, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius.

Coming now to the antiquities of the Roman period found at Lancaster, the first mention we have of anything being discovered there is in Dr. Leigh's *Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire*, &c., (Oxford, 1780), in Book III of which, at p. 10, he says:—

At Lancaster lately, in digging up of a cellar of Mr. Partington, were found several Roman *Disci* and *Sympuvia* (?) or cups used in sacrifices, and coins, some of *Aelius*, *Adrianus*, and *Augustus Caesar*; the cups have upon their sides the figures of various creatures and IVLIVS FLAVIVS in letters; on the bottom of one of these appeared very legibly these letters, REGINI.



They were no doubt the usual class of vessels of Samian, Upchurch, and Castor ware, invariably found at Roman stations. REGINI is a well-known potter's mark, and occurs on pottery found at London, York, Bath, Exeter, Gloucester, Aldborough, Wilderspool, &c. As regards IVLIVS FLAVIVS, from the name being on *the side* of the vessel, it probably commemorated some individual whose figure was introduced into the ornamentation (possibly a gladiator), as we find in other examples, notably a fine urn with lid found at Colchester.

The next recorded discovery took place in 1772, when a Roman tombstone, which I have previously mentioned, was found in Pudding Lane. The stone, which was 4 ft. by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft., was found about five feet under ground, lying, as is generally the case with these stones, face downwards. It was inscribed

DIS . MANI  
BVS  
LIVL . APOL  
LINARIS  
TREVER . AN  
XXX . EQ . AL  
AE . AI  
IV

This copy of the inscription is taken from the MSS. of Richard Gough, the antiquary, preserved at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, to whom it was sent by a Mr. George Ashby. In the other copies of this inscription, which have probably all been taken from *Cooke's Topographical Description of the County of Lancaster*, the third line is given as REVTER . AN, which yields no sense. TREVER is a well-known name in epigraphy, *Civis Trever* often occurring when a citizen of Treves (one of the ancient tribe of the *Treviri*) is named. The reading of this stone is undoubtedly *Dis Manibus L(ucius) Jul(ius) Apollinaris, Trever, annorum XXX eq(ues) alae A . . . .*, i.e. "To the Divine Shades. Lucius Julius "Apollinaris, a Trever citizen, thirty years of age, a horseman "of the Ala A . . . ."

Mr. West in his *Guide to the Lakes*, p. 20, says of this stone, that,

A foot and two inches were broken off the lower corner on the right hand side, so as to render the inscription obscure, but the remaining letters were very plain, elegantly formed, square, and about three inches high. The inscription had consisted of eight or nine lines, of which six are entire.

It is to be feared that this stone has perished. It came into the possession of Sir Ashton Lever, was afterwards preserved in the Leverian museum, near Blackfriars bridge, London, and since the sale and dispersion of that collection in 1806, has been entirely lost sight of.

In 1774, a discovery of what appears to have been a Roman tile manufactory, took place in Quernmore park, the seat of the Hon. Edward Clifford. Mr. West says, p. 21 :—

That these works have been very considerable may be supposed from the space discoloured with broken ware, the holes from whence the clay has been taken, and the great variety of bricks, tiles, and vessels that are found about them. But the greatest discovery is gained from a tile with turned up edges, impressed on each end with the words ALE SEBVSIA, which points out a wing of cavalry not heard of before. The same inscription is found on bricks, the label smaller, and the letters ALA . SEBVSIA. The shape of the second letter in the first word is like that in the inscription on the rock near Brampton in Cumberland, supposed to have been cut in the time of the Emperor Severus, A.D. 207, and is the fifth L in Horsley's Alphabet. On the brick the letters are square, from which it may be inferred that this wing was long stationed at Lancaster.

Through the courtesy of Miss Ffarington, of Worden Hall, I am in possession of a copy of a letter from the Hon. Edward Clifford to Sir William Ffarington, of Shawe Hall, dated October 25th, 1774, and which accompanied several specimens of the pottery, tiles, &c., sent to the latter gentleman. The letter itself, which has not been published, contains nothing of much interest; but a list of the articles sent, which is appended to it, is of some value. They consisted of portions



of amphorae, paterae, flue and roofing tiles, &c., and a piece of pottery on which was "probably part of the word SITIS, "usually inscribed by the ancients on vessels of glass, silver, "or earthenware, from which they were supplied with drink "at their meals, (see Montfaucon's *Antiquities*.)" There was also sent "a three-cornered fragment of a square tile, with "inscription ALE . SEBVSIA." The shape of the letter L in this is then described, agreeing with the account given by Mr. West, and it is added, "the dimensions of these tiles "seem to have been about 14 inches square, or something "larger."

This fragment of tile is still (1875) preserved at Worden Hall, and is now the only one from this site known to be in existence. Some of the pottery is also preserved there, though not the above-named inscribed fragment. With regard to this latter, I am inclined to think that it is merely a portion of a well-known potter's mark, SITVSIRI . M, which occurs in Mr. Roach Smith's London list.

Speaking of the site of this manufactory, Mr. Clifford further says:—

Common brick, coarse pieces of round flues or water pipes; common flooring tiles, and remnants of almost every species of this manufactory are found near the area of the site of the kiln, part of which was standing, within the memory of men still living, and great destruction made of all the remains, in levelling the ground for plowing. Some brazen and other utensils with inscriptions were at that time found, but dispersed or converted to private use by the tenants. A stratum of charcoal with which these were burnt is found underneath and intermixed in the heaps of these remains, three or four feet and a half underground. No glazed work among it—that art being of a more modern date.

The fragments of pottery found, I opine, were merely portions of vessels that had been used by the brickmakers for domestic purposes, and do not indicate that the site was also a pottery. The variety of ware, judging from the fragments

now at Worden, seems to prove this. It is simply what we might expect to find from the long residence of a considerable population.

In vol. V of the *Archæologia*, p. 98, there is an account of some antiquities found at Lancaster, in a letter from Mr. West, read to the Society of Antiquaries, May 9th, 1776, as follows:—

Lancaster, Feb. 1, 1776.

On sinking the cellars for a large house at the upper part of Church Street in this town, now building by Daniel Wilson, Esq., on the site of which stood some very old houses (formerly called the Judges' lodgings), was discovered, at about six feet below the present surface of the street, a supposed Roman burying place, as burnt wood, bones, and ashes, broken paterae, urns, Roman bricks, gutter tiles, coins, horns of animals, &c., were found, also two fragments of thick walls, at about five yards distant from each other, in a direction from front to back, and seeming to continue under Church Street, betwixt which are several large stones, some of which were hewn. By this it may be conjectured to have been a vault to deposit the ashes of the dead, and fallen in, or pulled down at some time, as there were found, within the walls, several pieces of urns, an earthen sepulchral lamp entire (the end of the spout where the wick came out was burnt black), broken paterae, burnt bones, ashes, a large human skull, Roman coins, &c., also at the north end a well, filled with hewn stones, but not meddled with. There is a descent of about seventy or eighty yards from the back part of the house, to where it is thought the river *Lon* anciently ran, but now built upon. The ground on the said back part was levelled a great many yards, equal with the cellar floor; where also were found, from three to six feet deep, according to the descent, burnt wood, bones, ashes, broken paterae, urns, and other pieces of vessels of different shapes, Roman coins, boar's tusks, nails almost eaten with rust, pieces of lead, brass, &c. The stratum of ashes and bones was from a foot to about five feet thick. It no doubt runs quite under Church Street, if not further, as in digging a drain on the opposite side of Church Street and to the westward of Mr. Wilson's house, at about six feet under the surface, was found the same sort of stratum of ashes, bones, paterae, boar's tusks, a small brazen head like a dog's, which, by the appearance of the back part of it, has been fixed to something; the pedestal and feet-part of a small



image, thought to have been a Lar, with an inscription (it seems to be made of plaster of Paris or some such matter); pieces of glass of a blueish green colour, &c. One bottom of a patera found here had stamped on it CADGATEMA, perhaps the maker's name. These vessels are of a fine brown colour, far superior to the Staffordshire brown ware, elegantly varnished or glazed, some plain, others finely embossed with different sorts of figures, animals, and birds. The urns are in form of different sorts of jars, of a coarse kind, much like the oil jars, and some of a black colour as if burnt in the fire, some small, and some very large; but none entire, being broken into several small pieces. Some have large handles.

Nothing Roman was found above the burnt strata of ashes, bones, &c. which it may be conjectured was the then surface of the ground; and where the funeral rites were performed, the burnt bones and ashes of the persons might be buried under this stratum, as they were found in that situation with the pieces of urns. The inscriptions on the coins were none of them perfect, except one of brass of Marcus Aurelius; and another small one of silver, a fine impression, and in high preservation, of Faustina his wife; on the head DIVA FAVSTINA PIA; reverse, a monument with CONSECRATIO. The burying place is a little to the eastward and without the wall of the Roman fortification where the garrison was kept, as there now remain several vestiges of the wall sufficient to evince that it has taken up great part of the hill where the church and castle stand, and part of the upper end of Church Street. About one hundred yards to the eastward of Mr. Wilson's new house on the opposite side of Church Street, on digging a cellar a few years ago for a new house, Mr. Henry Baynes's, were found several large hewn stones, and one about six feet under the surface, supposed to be about three tons weight, of which several cellar steps were made, and about a ton weight still remains in its place, under which were found a great many Roman coins of Domitian and Vespasian, &c.; it is thought to be the corner stone of a temple or some other public building.

N.B.—There were found in Mr. Wilson's cellar, as also in the drain in Church Street, several stones thought to have been pieces of small hand-mill stones, of about thirteen inches in diameter when whole, of a blueish grey colour, and exceeding hard; they are about three inches thick at the outer edges, and not an inch in the middle.\*

\* See also Gough's *Camden*, edit. 1789, vol. iii, p. 141; and Simpson's *History of Lancaster*, (1852,) p. 109.

In his *Guide to the Lakes*, Mr. West says of the above, at p. 21, that the lamp which was found entire had a turned-up perforated handle to hang it by; and much regrets that the well found was not explored.

From the foregoing description it would appear that the destruction of Roman Lancaster occurred (like that of many other Roman cities) by fire; the layer of ashes being found spread over such an area, and nothing Roman having been found above it, seems almost conclusive on the point. Mr. West is right as to this layer of ashes lying on the former surface of the ground; but the ashes are those of the superstructure of buildings, and have no relation to the cremation of the dead.

In 1794, a very interesting inscribed altar was dug up in the churchyard at Halton, about three miles N.E. of Lancaster, in the immediate vicinity of a Saxon cross (also standing in the churchyard.) Although the inscription has been given by several authors, no engraving of the stone has ever appeared; but I have been fortunate enough to secure, through James Johnson, Esq., M.D., lately resident at Lancaster, a sketch of it, taken immediately after its discovery, which I exhibit herewith, and a copy of which I append.\* I am not aware whether the altar is still in existence; it was removed to the stable yard at Halton Hall at the time of its discovery, but a few years ago it was not there. The inscription is—

DEO  
MART\*  
SABINV\*  
P. P. ET MILIT\*  
N. BARC. SC  
EIIVS. PO\*

There is a portion of the right-hand side of the face of the stone broken off, leaving the lines incomplete. In the fifth

\* Fig. I in the accompanying Plate.





Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

ROMAN ALTARS FOUND NEAR LANCASTER

It is a very common mistake to suppose that the only way to get a good result is to use a large quantity of the material. In fact, the best results are obtained by using a small quantity of the material, and by using it in a judicious manner.

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and sixth lines the last letters both resemble C owing to this cause; perhaps (though very improbably) that in the fifth line may not have been that letter. In the sixth, I think the letter has been O followed by S, *i.e.* POS for Posuerunt. The whole inscription I would read thus:—*Deo Marti, Sabinus Praepositus et milites numeri Barcariorum sub cura ejus posuerunt.* Strangely enough, from an erroneous copy which had been furnished him, Dr. McCaul some years ago came to a similar conclusion as to the reading.\* This latter gentleman expands "*numeri Barcariorum*" "of the '*numerus* of 'bargemen,'" deriving it from "*barca*" (a barge.)

Professor Böcking, in his edition of the *Notitia*, does the same. We have in the *Notitia* a *Numerus Barcariorum Tigrisiensium* stationed at *Arbeia*, a place whose site is not yet settled, but which was probably at the mouth of the Tees.

Professor Hübner, who had neither seen the stone nor a drawing of it, gives a somewhat different expansion.† This altar has the usual *focus*.

In the spring of the same year (1794) when the canal was being formed from Lancaster to Preston, at a place called the "Borough," in a field on the road from Lancaster to Cockerham, there was found by the workmen a *miliarium* of the Emperor Philip, who reigned from A.D. 244 to A.D. 249; together with a sculptured figure of a draped female, about two feet high (probably meant to represent Ceres); two sea lions carved in stone; and four human heads (apparently of statues) in the same material.

The inscription on the *miliarium* is—

IMP . C . M . IVLIO  
PHILIPPO  
PIO . FEL . AVG  
M .

\* *Brit. Rom. Inscr.*, p. 85.

+ *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vol. vii, No. 285.

It is now preserved at Lunecliffe (formerly Stoddy Lodge) the residence of E. B. Dawson, Esq., and the sculptures are in the grounds of B. P. Gregson, Esq., at Caton. The statue and one of the heads are exceedingly well carved. In 1872, another head, carved in stone and apparently of Jupiter Ammon, was found at the same spot, and is now in the possession of my friend, T. H. Dalzell, Esq., Mawdale Villa, Lancaster, to whom I am indebted for much information concerning the antiquities of the town.

The whole of these heads are about 15 inches each in height. The *miliarium* is a rough stone, not a pillar, as in other cases, and the letters are close to the top of it.

In 1797 an altar was found, of which the Rev. F. Lee, in the *Archæologia*, vol. xiii, p. 401, says:—

It was dug up in clearing away some earth for improving and enlarging the Castle. This antique relic lay concealed at a little distance without the old wall, between Adrian's round tower and the great square one of Saxon architecture. This small votive altar was deposited about six feet from the surface of the ground. The height of the altar is 2 feet 2½ inches; the width at the base 1 foot 4 inches; the width at the middle 1 foot; the thickness at the base 1 foot; and the thickness at the middle 10 inches.

The inscription is—

DEO  
SANCTO. MARTI  
COCIDIO. VIBINIUS  
LVCIVS. BF. COS  
V. S. L. M.

and should be expanded *Deo Sancto Marti Cocidio, Vibinius Lucius beneficiarius Consulis votum solvit libeus merito; i.e., To the holy god Mars Cocidius; Vibinius Lucius a pensioner of the Consul, performs his vow willingly to a deserving object.*

This altar, which is in a fair state of preservation, is now kept at Lancaster Castle. It was the first one discovered on which the name of Mars occurred with the epithet of *Cocidius*.



Since then, several others to *Mars Cocidius* have been found, chiefly in Cumberland, at Bewcastle, Walton Castlesteads, Tarraby, &c. *Cocidius* is the name of a British god, whose attributes most probably were those which most nearly corresponded with those of Mars.

In 1798, Roman coins, pottery, &c., were found "on cutting a drain in Church Street, which leads to the Castle."\*

In 1802 a Roman altar was found at a place called the "Foley," or "Folly," a farm about a mile north from Lancaster, in digging for the foundation of a lime kiln. It is 2 feet 8 inches high, and 2 feet broad. On one side is sculptured the *securis* or sacrificial axe, on the other the *secespita* or cutting knife, in relief. It was lying about eighteen inches beneath the surface of the ground, and at the base was broken at all four corners, which were rounded off. It was first described by Mr. Terry (but very imperfectly) in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, November, 1802, p. 993. On its face it bears this inscription—

DEO  
IALONO  
CONTRE  
SANCTISSI  
MO. IVLIVS  
IANVARIVS  
EM. EX. DECV

This altar was for nearly three quarters of a century in the possession of a family named Rawlinson at the Folly Farm, but is now owned by my friend Mr. Dalzell. With the exception of the third line it is easily read. Various readings have been proposed of this line; but that of Professor Hübner, who considers it an abbreviation of *CONTREBI*, similar to the word found on the altar at Overborough, is perhaps nearest the truth. The reading of the whole would thus be—

\* Simpson, *Hist. Lancaster*, p. 115.

*Deo Ialono Contre(bi?) Sanctissimo. Julius Januarius em(eritus) ex decu(rione.)*

Who the deity *Ialonus* was is a matter yet to be decided. He probably took his name from the river Lone, on which, besides Lancaster, are two other Roman stations—*Alone*, at Borrowbridge, and *Galacum*, at its junction with the *Lac* at Overborough. The inscription is in good preservation.\*

In 1803 there was found, after a high flood, in the bed of a little stream called the Artle beck (which, coming from the south, falls into the river Lune) near Caton, about four miles E.N.E. in a straight line from Lancaster, a very fine *miliarium* of Hadrian. It is a cylindrical column, between eight and nine feet high, and nearly four feet in circumference. The inscription on it was first published by Dr. Whitaker, in his *History of Richmondshire*, vol. ii, p. 215. Whitaker's correctness is confirmed by a copy made by my friend Mr. Dalzell and also by the Rev. J. C. Bruce, LL.D., the well-known author of the *Roman Wall*, who, at my request, inspected it in November, 1874, in Mr. Gregson's grounds at Caton, where it is preserved with the sculptures before mentioned. The inscription is—

IMP. CAES  
TR. HADRIA  
AVG. P. M. T. P  
COS III. P. P

>I M. P. III

The only difficulty in this inscription is in the last line, where

\* Professor Hübner says of this altar, *Corpus Inscr. Latin.*, No. 284 :—  
“Nomen dei fortasse corruptum est, cf. n. 290,” [the Overborough altar.] “et  
“nomen oppidi Hispani Contrebia. Ex decurione Iannarius fortasse fuit alae  
“Sebosianae.” With regard to these remarks, if the name of the deity is  
corrupt, it has been so given by the dedicator—the inscription is certainly cor-  
rectly given. I am inclined to agree with him however as to the origin of  
*Contrebi*, and also as to Iannarius being probably an *emeritus* of the *Ala*  
*Sebosiana*.



the form before the M is puzzling. Were the stone similar to others of its class, it should have here given us the Roman name of Lancaster; what follows M. P. is plain enough, giving the distance as three miles from that town. This stone may have been erected any time between A.D. 119 and A.D. 138, for Hadrian was only Consul three times, and the omission of the numerals after T. P. prevents us from knowing the exact year of its erection.

Mr. Baines, in his *History of Lancashire*, (edit. 1836), vol. iv, p. 488, says (speaking of the altar to Ialonus), "since the discovery of the above, another Roman altar has been found in a garden in the Vicarage field, near the track of the *Wery-wall*. It bears no inscription, but on one side the figure of a sacrificial knife is visible." I am not aware where this altar is now preserved.

Mr. Simpson, in his *History of Lancaster*, p. 116, quotes a passage from the *Lancaster Gazette*, dated 7th October, 1809, to the effect that "on carrying a drain through Church Street, to meet with one from the Castle, the foundation of a wall composed of large hewn stones, laid in regular courses, has been brought to light; also many fragments of a beautiful red species of pottery with figures embossed in relief. On one there is Apollo playing on a lyre; on another a horse in full speed." On one of these fragments the letters QVINTILIANI. M. were distinctly marked—being the potter's mark—one well known on Samian ware. A silver coin was also found, on which, besides the head of the Emperor, only the word ANTONINVS could be made out; on the reverse was "a figure of Justice sitting." Another one of copper, found at the same time, was of the Empress Faustina; reverse, a figure standing, with the legend IVNONI REGINAE S. C.

Another *miliarium* of Philip appears next to have been found, described by Mr. Simpson, at p. 118, thus:—"In the

"spring of 1811, a Roman *miliarium* or milestone was found "in ploughing a field adjoining the canal, in the parish of "Ashton, so near the surface of the earth that it was struck "by the ploughshare of the husbandman." It bore the following inscription in very slender letters:—

IMP . C . M . IVLIO  
PHILIPPO  
PIO . FEL . AVG .

This is to be read, as is also the other to this Emperor,—*Imperatorī Caesarī Marco Julio Philippo Pio Felici Augusto*. To the Emperor Caesar, Marcus Julius Philippus the pious, the fortunate, the august. I have been unable to trace the whereabouts of this stone. Some have thought it to be one and the same with that preserved at Lunecliffe; but the dates and circumstances of the discovery seem completely different. Dr. Hübner speaking of these stones, which are Nos. 1172 and 1173 in his work, says of the one preserved at Lunecliffe—"Coeva sed tamen diversa a praecedente." In this I agree with him.

In September, 1812, according to Mr. Simpson (p. 119), two Roman querns (or millstones), some pottery and bones, were found in draining operations in Pudding Lane.

The next discovery was a most interesting one. It appears to have been first published by Dr. Whitaker in his *History of Richmondshire*, vol. ii, p. 213. As that work was published in 1823, it must have occurred previously to that year, but the author does not specify the date of its discovery. It is a handsome tablet, bearing an inscription within a sunken panel, which is on one side flanked by the figures of two dolphins. It was found in a garden at the top of Church Street, and is not quite complete, a portion of the top and left side being broken off. The inscription is, after divesting it of the ligatures or tied letters—



\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \* BALINEVM REFECT  
 \* \* \* ASILICAM VETVSTATE CONLABSAM  
 \* SOLO RESTITVTAM EQQ. ALAE. SEBVSSIA  
 ===== SVB. OCTAVIO. SABIN V C  
 PRAESIDE . N . CVRANTE . FLA . AMMAV  
 SIO . PRAEF . EQQ . D . D . XI . KAL . SEPTEM  
 CENSORE II ET LIPIDO II . COS

The asterisks mark the portion of the stone lost: where the blanks are, in the first and fifth lines, the inscription has been purposely erased in Roman times. This was a matter of frequent occurrence, after an Emperor had become unpopular and had been assassinated. In this case, the Emperor whose name had been erased in the first line is probably either Caracalla or Elagabalus. Dr. Hübner, who inspected the stone at St. John's College, Cambridge, where it is now preserved, thinks he could detect a small 'o' above the 'N' in SABIN; but whether it is so or not, the reading would not be affected. The same may be said of *Lipido*, the first 'I' in which he thinks may have been 'E.' The blank in the fifth line has been an epithet, which the *ala* has assumed from the name of the unfortunate Emperor, probably *Antoniniana*. The names of the Consuls in the last line not occurring in the Consular Fasti, and being otherwise unknown, they were no doubt merely *Consules suffecti*; had it been otherwise, we should at once have known the date of the tablet. The reading which Professor Hübner gives of the inscription, as it now exists, and in which I agree with him, is—

" . . . (*ob*) *balineum refect(um)* (*et b*)*asilicam vetustate*  
*" conlabsam a solo restitutam eq(uites) alae Sebussia(nae*  
*" . . . . . ) sub Octavio Sabino v(iro) c(larissimo) prae*  
*" side n(ostro) curante Fla(vio) Ammausio praef(ecto)*  
*" eq(uitum). D(atum) d(edicatum) XI. Kal(endas)*  
*" Septem(bres). Censore II et Lepido II co(n)s(ulibus)."*

The facts we gather from this stone are, that on the eleventh

of the Kalends of September, in the year when Censor and Lepidus (each for the second time) were *Consules suffecti*, the *Ala Sebussiana*, under the instructions of Octavius Sabinus,\* a man of illustrious rank and President (*praeses*) of the province of Britain, rebuilt a bath and restored from the ground a basilica which had become decayed with age; and that Flavius Ammausius, a praefect of horse (no doubt the commander of the regiment) superintended the work.

Unless the tiles found in London, and which bear the inscription P. P. BRI. LON. read (as I think they do) *Praeses Provinciae Britanniae Londinii*, no other inscription in which the Governor of Britain is called *Praeses* occurs in our island. The name of the legate is also otherwise totally unknown.

Another fact that we may gather from this inscription is, the early date of the erection of the station, when such a building as a basilica required renewing on account of its ruinous condition so early as between A.D. 217 and 222. It at once shows that Lancaster may have been a Roman station as early as A.D. 79, and have been erected by Agricola. Considerable remains of the bath appear to have been found at the same time as the inscription, for Whitaker says, p. 214:—"At the same time when it was discovered, remains of the bath, to which it refers, were also taken up. It appears to have been a cold bath, as there were no appearances of a hypocaust; and the paving, as usual, had been channeled to prevent the feet of the bathers from slipping." Dr. Whitaker, at p. 213, gives an engraving of the tablet.

A rather peculiar event marks the next reported discovery.

\* In the *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, vol. i, p. 130, Professor Mommsen has an article upon a person who appears, from Continental inscriptions, to have borne the names of Caius Octavius Appius Suetrius Sabinus, and to have been the imperial legate in Pannonia (Inferior) and Raetia, legate of the 22nd legion, and held many other posts. He was Consul A.D. 214. Professor Mommsen in this article raises the question (p. 142), whether the Octavius Sabinus of this Lancaster inscription is the same person; but no satisfactory conclusion is arrived at.



Mr. Baines, in vol. iv of his *History of Lancashire*, p. 489, says:—"In A.D. 1830, a stone was found by the workmen "employed in digging a cellar on the Castle Hill. It is a "plain square monument, with an imperfect inscription, which "seems to record the death of a son of Julian Probus." Two pages previously (p. 487) Mr. Baines, in speaking of the sculptures found at Borough, says that this stone was preserved with them in Mr. Gregson's garden in Queen Square, Lancaster. As I was aware that all the sculptures formerly preserved in this garden had been removed to Mr. Gregson's grounds at Caton, I asked my friend Mr. Dalzell, in the summer of 1873, to visit the latter place, see if the tombstone named was there, and, if so, obtain a copy of the inscription. He did so, and sent me a copy of the lettering on the stone. To my surprise I found it identical with an inscription first described by Lysons, in the *Magna Britannia*, as being found at Birdoswald, the ancient *Amboglanna*, in Cumberland, and given by Dr. Bruce in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, No. 383, and which he had reported as missing. In one of my letters to Dr. Bruce I mentioned this fact, when he at once went over to Caton, and identified it as the missing stone—engraving it in the Appendix to the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, p. 474. It is a stone 2 feet 2 inches in height by 1 foot 2 inches in breadth, and inscribed

D . M  
 AVRELI  
 CONCOR  
 DI . VIXIT  
 ANN . VN  
 VM . D . V  
 FIL . AVR  
 IVLIANI  
 TRIB.

How it got to Lancaster from Birdoswald it is impossible to say.

In 1834, another *miliarium* was found on the Castle Hill. It is not cylindrical but rough, and is now preserved at Lunccliffe, with the milestone of the reign of Philip. Like the latter, the lettering is quite at the top of the stone, which is 5 feet 6 inches in length, and is inscribed

IMP C D N  
CAIO MESSIO  
QVINTO DEC  
TRAIANO P FEL  
ICI INVICTO AVG

*i.e., Imp(eratori) C(aesari) D(omino) N(ostro) Caio Messio Quinto Dec(io) Trajano P(io) Felici Invicto Aug(usto).* This Emperor reigned from A.D. 249, when he succeeded Philip, to A.D. 251, when he was killed in a sanguinary battle with the Goths.

In the Mayer Museum, Liverpool, there is a small altar of terra cotta, about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and 4 inches broad, in the case of antiquities found at Lancaster, and which bears the inscription in relief—

SILVANO  
TETTO  
SERVS  
FITACITI  
EX.VOTOR

Mr. Mayer informs me that it was found in cutting a railway at Lancaster, *circa* 1855; but I think this a mistake, for on examining it, I found underneath it most unmistakeable traces of its having been purchased, and I believe from the establishment of Mr. W. Chaffers, F.S.A., in London. In fact, the altar seems to have been discovered at Heiligenberg, on the Franco-German boundary, in 1840, as the exact inscription occurs in a description of some Roman pottery, &c., found at that place in 1840, by Mr. C. Roach Smith, F.S.A., in the *Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne*,



p. 71. The inscription occurred first on a vase, and was "repeated with slight variations on several small altars in "terra cotta."

Mr. Simpson records, p. 121, the discovery of a cinerary urn, in digging the foundation of St. Thomas' Church, and another in 1847, containing burnt bones, and the skull of a child, found in Queen Square; and in 1849, the discovery of a number of Roman coins and an iron spear-head,\* in Marsh Lane, in digging for the junction of the North Western and Carlisle railways.

Vast quantities of coins have been found in Lancaster. Baines notices, p. 489, a silver one of Otho, A.D. 69, found in December, 1834, "in the garden of Joseph Dockray, Esq., "a little below the parish church." *Obverse*—bust of the Emperor, with legend IMP . M . OTHO . CAESAR . AVG . TR . P . *Reverse*—SECVRITAS . P . R . surrounding a figure bearing in the right hand a chaplet and in the left a spear. On the same page, Baines also enumerates a list of the Emperors whose coins had been found in the churchyard within a few years previously to 1836: they are Vespasian, Domitian, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus Maximus, Diocletian, and Licinius. During the same period, he says, that about a hundred coins of Constantine and of Probus had been picked up; also one inscribed CONSTANTIVS . NOB . CHES. The latter word is certainly CAES. Many others have since been found, of which the writer has been informed. In 1837 and 1838, copper coins of Domitian and Antoninus Pius were found in this churchyard. Extensive collections were formed by the late Canon Turner (Vicar of Lancaster), the late W. Jackson, Esq., the late Benj. Dockray, Esq., the late Mr. Parkinson, and the late Mr. Corbyn Barrow. The latter collection was some time

\* This is now in the possession of Mr. Dalzell.

ago presented to the Lancaster Mechanics' Institute, after being catalogued by Mr. Dalzell. They are at present deposited in the Lancaster bank for safety.

On the 15th of August, 1856, a workman engaged in cutting away the embankment at the bottom of Bridge Lane, at the foot of the *Wery-wall*, to make way for some new cottages then about being erected by Mr. Thomas Harrison, came upon a hoard of about one hundred denarii, all of the higher empire. These silver coins quickly got dispersed; but fourteen of them came into Mr. Dalzell's possession, of which seven appear to be of Vespasian, one of Titus, one Trajan, one Hadrian, and four Consular. The same gentleman has also a number of first and third brass of various Emperors, found at different times.

The potters' marks found at Lancaster have not been closely investigated. Mr. Dalzell tells me that he saw the following on pottery found in Church Street in 1868—'70 and '71 :—

A . POLAVSTI	DAGODVN VV	
. TICOTAKI . M	DIVES	
SVLPICIANI		HB
CADGATE MA	ANIEACIO	or
QVINTILIANI M		NEB

And in 1872, pottery, with the name IMANNI, was found. The first, third, fifth, and sixth occur in various parts of England; the fourth we have before seen was also found in 1776; and the fifth also in 1809. IMANNI also is well known. These, with the REGINI mentioned by Dr. Leigh, seem to embrace the whole of those known to have been found. No. 2 has, I think, been wrongly read.

One point more remains to be spoken of, and that is, the Roman roads connecting Lancaster with other Roman stations. They are three in number. The first was to Overborough (*Galacum*,) and would appear for a considerable period to have been the only large road connecting Lancaster with the



rest of Roman Britain. I think Dr. Whitaker is correct in the assumption that this road was found to be "inconvenient, "dilatatory, and toilsome." "I have proved," says he, "from a "late discovery, that it was always impracticable for carriages." Whitaker then goes on to say, that from the discovery of the *miliarium* of Philip, he thinks that the road south from Lancaster to the neighbourhood of Preston, (where it falls at nearly right angles upon the fine Roman road from the Fylde to Ribchester), was constructed in that Emperor's reign. In this I concur with him. From its point of intersection it would prove a continuation of the fine road from Manchester (via Wigan and Walton) to Ribchester, and thus unite Manchester with Lancaster by a road almost, as Whitaker says, on "a perfect plane." This was the second road issuing from Lancaster; and the third seems to be its continuation, leading northwards to the station at Natland near Kendal, and probably completed by Decius, the successor of Philip in the empire, A.D. 249—251, from the fact of the *miliarium* bearing his name having been found on the Castle Hill.

Whitaker apparently adopts this view as to both roads, for he says, vol. ii, p. 213—

It is another curious fact, that this latter iter is differently constructed from the great Roman pavement of the upper empire. I have been assured by an intelligent person who has seen a portion of it dug up in the *Fylde* [south of Lancaster], that it was constructed much like a common highway, with small broken stones compacted by time and pressure. And I have myself taken up a portion of the same way near the Folly, about a mile from Lancaster to the north, and pointing upon *Concangios*, [he erroneously gives this name to the station at Natland] which in the mode of its construction precisely corresponded with this account.

Such are the vestiges of the Roman age left to us in the capital of the County Palatine. It is much to be wished that systematic excavations could be made, in the Vicarage fields and at the foot of the fragments of the Wall now existing.

Stukeley, (*Itin. Curiosum*, vol. ii, p. 38) says, "All the space of ground north of the church is full of foundations of stone buildings, Roman, I believe, and much stone has been taken up there." The sites of buildings are still here and there traceable (1875) by the irregularities of soil in the neighbourhood of the vicarage. Mr. Simpson also tells us, p. 116—"Whenever cellars have been sunk, or similar excavations made, in certain parts of Lancaster, a variety of Roman antiquities have been invariably discovered; and particularly in the upper part of Church Street."

Taken in connection, these statements by Stukeley and Simpson serve to shew that the soil teems with Roman remains, which merely require to be collected, in order to throw a flood of light upon the name, size, history, and fall of the town. Is there not sufficient spirit in the locality for the inauguration of such a course? It rests with the present generation to decide. A few years and it will be too late.

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NOTE.—Since writing the above I am informed, by the Vicar of Halton, that the altar found in 1794 is now preserved in the study at Halton Hall, where it is built up into the wall, with a glass framing in its front. The altar found at the Folly has been lately removed by Mr. Dalzell to his new residence, Clifton Hall, near Workington, where he has had it photographed, to enable me to supply the engraving herewith given (Fig. 2 in the Plate). With the exception of a small and very incorrect engraving of it in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1802, it has never before been engraved. The Halton altar also is now engraved for the first time.

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