III.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES FROM RIBCHESTER.
TRANSACTIONS.

ROMAN RIBCHESTER.

By W. T. Watkin, Esq.

[Read November 10th, 1877.]

[Note.—Fig. 1 in the accompanying plate shews the profile of the helmet described at p. 9. Fig. 2 is the back of the same. Fig. 3 is the colander (p. 10), and Fig. 4 the bust of Minerva (p. 10) attached to a disc, found on the same occasion.]

Having, about two years ago, laid before the Society a paper upon "Roman Lancaster," it seems fit that it should be supplemented by an account of the other large Roman station in the north of the county, i.e., Ribchester. At both of these places, the excavations proposed to be made are merely delayed,—in spite of great promises of support,—for the passing of Sir John Lubbock’s bill for the preservation of ancient monuments. This has been a wish generally expressed in high quarters, and to which I have yielded; feeling sure that the delay will be productive of good to the cause I have so much at heart.

Ribchester, situated on the river Ribble, from which its modern name is derived, is about six miles N.N.W. from Blackburn. Though now only a small village, it was, during the Roman period, a great fortress and town; and the large foundations still existing under ground, with the great number of antiquities previously discovered, (such as gems, rings, coins, inscribed altars and other stones,) all point out its importance in the Roman period. It appears, like Lancaster, to have been a cavalry station, and was for a long time garrisoned by a regiment of Polish lancers, named the Ala B
Sarmatarum. The name of this corps occurs in three inscriptions found on the site, one of which, and also the fine uninscribed tombstone found in 1876, and engraved in the Society's Transactions for that year, bear representations of soldiers of the regiment, mounted, and spearing a prostrate foe. At another time, it probably had for its garrison a regiment of Spanish cavalry, from the wild mountain region of the Asturias, the Ala Asturum. We gather this from an inscribed altar, found in 1580 within the castrum.

The name of the castrum has long been a subject of debate. Camden considered it to be either the Rigodunum of Ptolemy, or the Coccium of Antoninus. Horsley and Reynolds also considered it to be Coccium. The Rev. J. Whitaker (historian of Manchester) however, placed the site of Coccium at Blackrod. But in thus placing Coccium, all these authors fell into a common error. They admitted the fact that Mancunium was Manchester, and yet in spite of the distance of Coccium from the latter station being given as 17 miles in the Itinerary of Antoninus, they placed it at a distance of 30 miles from Manchester. This appears to have arisen from their being aware of the existence of only one Roman road leading northwards from Manchester, that through Lower Darwen and Blackburn, direct to Ribchester, which is much inferior to, and of a later date than, the fine road from Manchester to Wigan. This latter Roman road was first described in Baines' History of Lancashire, (edit. 1836, vol. iii,) by the Rev. Edmund Sibson, Minister of Ashton in Makersfield, who further treats of this road in a paper read before the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, on the 15th April, 1845, and published in vol. vii, 2nd series, of their Transactions, pp. 528-558. Mr. Sibson thought that Coccium was at Wigan, and was the first to place it there; but Ribchester he concluded was the Rerigonium of the forged Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester. The recent exposure of
this fraudulent work at once overthrows the name of *Rerigonium*. In vol. iv of the *Archæologia Aeliana*, the late Mr. Hodgson Hinde applied, for the first time, the name of the *Bremetenracum* of the *Notitia* and the *Bremetonacae* of the Tenth Iter of Antoninus to Ribchester, but he hesitated where to place *Coccium*, apparently through ignorance of the existence of the road from Wigan to Manchester.

In the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxviii, pp. 109-132, I pointed out the solution of the question, shewing how the distances (along Roman roads connecting them) between Overborough (*Gulacum*) and Ribchester (*Bremetonacae*) on the one hand, and between Ribchester and Wigan (*Coccium*) and thence to Manchester (*Mancunium*) on the other hand, agreed with the Itinerary. I also pointed out the course of the whole of the Tenth Iter. Not only do the distances agree, but one of the inscriptions, found in the *castrum* at Ribchester, gives us the name of the station, by telling us that the ala of the Sarmatians stationed there bore the title of *Bremetennacensium*. These remarks will be better understood by the insertion of the Tenth Iter of Antoninus, the only one which mentions *Gulacum, Bremetonacae, and Coccium*, with the modern names of the sites annexed to it.

**ITER X.**

A Glanoventa (Whitley Castle, Northumberland) Mediolanum (Chesterton, near Newcastle-under-Lyne) Mil. Pas. Centum et quinquaginta, CL.

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<th>Glava (Kirkby Thore)</th>
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<td>Alone (Borrowbridge)</td>
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<td>Mediolano (Chesterton)</td>
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The *Notitia Imperii*, after naming the stations on the line of the Roman Wall, and those in Cumberland, gives the following:

Tribunus cohortis primæ Morinorum, *Glannibanta.*

" " tertiae Nerviorum, *Alione.*

Cuneus Armaturarum, *Bremetenraco.*

I have pointed out, in the paper I previously named,* how these three stations, *Glannibanta, Alione,* and *Bremetenracum* are identical with the *Glanoveinta, Alone,* and *Bremetonacae* of the Tenth Iter. As regards the latter, it will be seen that while the *Notitia* gives the *Cuneus Armaturarum* as the garrison of *Bremetenracum,* inscriptions prove it to have been the *Ala Sarmatarum,* and in one it is called the *N(umerus) E(q uitum) Sarmatarum.* The probability is, that some ancient copyist of the *Notitia* has wrongly written *Cuneus Armaturarum* for *Cuneus Sarmatarum,* the title of the corps having been changed from *ala* to *numerus* (as above) and then to *cuneus.*

The first mention we have of Ribchester after the Roman period is in Domesday, where it is called "Ribelcastre." From that time, until the reign of Henry VIII, nothing is known of it (except, probably, its being mentioned in deeds.) At that time Leland, in his *Itinerary,* thus speaks of it:—

Ribchestre is now a poore thing; it hath been an auncient towne. Great squarid stones, voultes, and antique coynes be found ther, and ther is a place wher the people fable that the Jues had a temple.†

The celebrated Camden visited Ribchester twice, in 1582 and 1608, and in his *Britannia* thus speaks of it:—

The Rhibell turning short to the west, gives name to a village call'd at this day *Rible-chester,* where so many marks of Roman Antiquity, as Statues, Coins, Pillars, Pedestals, Chapiters, Altars, Marbles, and

* *Archæological Journal,* vol. xxviii.
† Leland's *Itinerary,* vol. iv, pt. 1, fol. 39.
Inscriptions are commonly dug up that this hobbling rhyme of the Inhabitants does not seem to be altogether groundless:—

It is written upon a wall in Rome.
Ribchester was as rich as any town in Christendom.

Though speculation has been rife, as to the origin of this rhyme, there can, I think, be but little difficulty in tracing it. In the copies of the Tabulae Honesta Missionis which have been found in various parts of the Roman world, it is generally stated that their original is affixed to the wall of a temple in Rome. For instance, in that found at Bickley, near Malpas in Cheshire, in 1812, the following passage occurs:—

"Descriptum et recognitum ex tabula aenea quae fixa est Romae in muro post templum Divi Augusti ad Minervam;"
i.e., "Copied and revised from the tablet of brass which is fixed at Rome on the wall behind the temple of deified Augustus, near that of Minerva." It seems to me, therefore, very probable that a Tabula Honesta Missionis had, at some period before Camden's visit, been found at Ribchester, in which a similar phrase occurred, and which was probably translated (as far as he was able) by the minister of the parish, or some one acquainted with Latin. The country people, knowing nothing of the names of the alae and cohorts named therein, have laid hold of the only portion intelligible to them, and hence the rhyme. The abundance of coins found, would form the basis of their idea as to the ancient wealth of Ribchester.

The next author who mentions Ribchester is Dr. Leigh, in his Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire and the Peak. He visited Ribchester in 1699. In addition to mentioning the roads from the station, and the inscriptions found in it, he says* that "he saw at Anchor Hill (so called from "Roman anchors and moorings having been found there), "paterae found there, marked on the bottom FAB. PRO."

* Book iii, p. 6, et seq.
And further, "not far from Anchor Hill I saw a common "sewer, and a floor composed of Roman tiles." He also saw coins, which had been found in the river's bank, of Augustus, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Antoninus, Commodus, Severus, Diocletian, &c., chiefly of copper; also, a ruby, with Mars on the reverse. He states that much pottery had been found, and the finger of a copper statue.

Dr. Stukeley, accompanied by Roger Gale, visited Ribchester in 1725, and at p. 37 of his Iter Boreale, thus speaks of it:—

The river Ribble is very broad at this place, rapid, and sonorous, running over the pebbles, and, what is much to be lamented, over innumerable Roman antiquities; for, in this long tract of time, it has eaten away a third part of the city. I traced out the old ground plot, and where the wall and ditch went round it; it lay in length east and west along the north side of the river, upon its brink, eight hundred feet long and five hundred broad. Originally, I apprehend, two streets ran along its length, and three crossed them on its breadth. By symmetry, I find the whole channel of the river at present lies within the precinct of the old city, the original channel on the other side being filled up with the city walls and rubbish, for it bends with a great elbow towards the city. The eastern limit of the city, or that upward of the river, lies against a brook, there falling in; and the two streams playing against that angle have carried it away, and still threaten them. At the western end of the city, or down the stream, a whole road, and some houses too, by a barn are absorbed, and great quantity of ashlar, the remains of the wall, has been carried off for building. Much remains in the ground, and on the edge of the stream. Farther up the land and all along the west side of the church wall, the ditch is perfect and the rampire where the wall stood pretty high, and the foundation of the wall, a little apparent. They tell me the ashlar stone still lies its whole length. They call this Anchor Hill, and when digging by the house that stands upon part of it, they found anchors and great quantities of iron pins, of all sizes, for ships or barges. The north-west angle of the city is manifest, and where the northern wall turned round the north side of the church. A little way down a lane at that angle, a great bank runs westward, made of stone like a Roman
road. There is a lane goes down north of the city to the brook, called “the Strand.” At the end of this lane is a street, which is the Roman road running directly northward, up the fell called Green Gate. It passes over Langridge, so through Bowland forest; it appears green to the eye. The eastern wall over the brook, stood likewise on a sort of precipice. Just under the Red Lion a subterraneous canal comes into the river, so high that one may walk upright in it, paved at the bottom. The stream here is frequently very impetuous, and two or three bridges have in modern times been swept away by floods. At the door of the Red Lion, I saw the base of a pillar, and a most noble shaft, seven feet long, handsomely turned, which was fished out of the river. It was doubtless Roman originally, though the base has I guess been used as the stump of a later cross. There is a scotia and two toruses at the bottom though not very elegantly formed. The whole is two feet and a half high, and twenty-two inches diameter, seventeen inches diameter at one top. The frustrum of the column lay in the ale-house yard, where the weather and other accidents have obliterated an inscription of three or four lines towards the top.

One corner of this house has a Roman partition wall, built of pebbles and hard mortar as usual. This house now (1725) is by the brink of the river, leaving only a scanty road between; but within memory a great many houses opposite (and among them the chief inn of the town) were washed away. Farther on down the river, a great part of an orchard fell down last year. Viewing the breach of the bank exposed thereby, I saw the joists and boards of a floor of oak, four feet under the present surface, with many bits of Roman bricks, potsherds, etc., and such floors are to be seen along the whole bank; whence most antiquities are found in the river.

The late minister of Ribchester, the Rev. Mr. Ogden, collected all the coins, intaglios, and other antiquities found here in great quantities; but his widow, as far as I can learn, disposed of them to Mr. Prescott of Chester. I was shown the top of a great two handled amphora or wine jar of whitish clay, taken out of the river. I saw another like fragment. I saw a large coin of Domitian, of yellow brass, very fair, found in the river. * * * Another pedestal of a pillar found in the river. Many urns have been found hereabouts, but they are all lost and disregarded since Mr. Ogden died, who collected such things. They know the track of the Roman road all the way over the hills. In a garden by the Unicorn’s Head, a gold finger was found, and another brass finger as large as a man’s. Two intaglios of Mercury, with wings
on his feet, the Caduceus, etc., were found near Anchor Hill. Much ashes and bones were found about the city. Digging in the churchyard silver coins have been often turned up. Half of one longitudinal street and two latitudinals, have been consumed.

All the inscriptions have been carried away from Salesbury. At Dinkley I saw two altars, the inscriptions of both obliterated, but well cut. One stood in a grass plot in the garden, covered over with moss and weeds, and was used in the house as a cheese press. The late Mr. Warren was careful of these relics.

As regards this account of Dr. Stukeley's, it must be said that no tunnel now exists under the Red Lion. It was doubtless a sewer, and has probably been destroyed. Such sewers have been found on many Britanno-Roman sites, notably Lincoln. None of the streets are now traceable above ground; the portions of pillars which he saw at the Red Lion, have disappeared, and the top of the amphora he names, which was a few years ago in the possession of the Rev. S. J. Allen of Salesbury (and subsequently of Easingwold), is now in the possession of T. H. Whitaker, Esq., of the Holme, near Burnley. As to the nautical remains at Anchor Hill, Dr. Whitaker is in all probability correct when he says that they prove nothing more than the existence of a ferry.

Horsley, who visited Ribchester about the same time as Dr. Stukeley, deals principally with the inscriptions found there; but at page 302 of his *Britannia Romana* he says:

"Besides these, a great number of other Roman antiquities have been found here, as coins, vases of several sorts, with some imperfect words or letters upon them," &c.

Leaving for the moment the inscriptions described by these authors as having been found at the station, I pass on to other miscellaneous discoveries.

In the summer of 1796, a boy of thirteen years of age, the son of Joseph Walton, a labourer, "was at play in a hollow that had been made in the waste land, at the side of the road leading to the church, and near the bend of the river."
Mr. Charles Townley, who first described the antiquities found on the occasion, says* that the boy, when in this hollow "rubbed accidentally" upon a helmet, "at the depth of about nine feet from the surface of the ground. When the helmet was extracted the other articles were found with it, deposited in a heap of red sand, which formed a cube of three feet. As no stratum of that or of any other kind of sand appeared in this ground, it is probable that when these remains were placed there the sand was thrown amongst them to preserve them in a dry state and from rust, but they are in general much defaced by the corrosive effect of sand upon copper, and the moisture of the ground in which they lay." Joseph Walton, who sold these antiquities to Mr. Townley, on the 8th December, 1797, gave him these foregoing particulars. The antiquities consisted of—

I. "A helmet, divided into two pieces, one of which is the skull part, ornamented with figures of eleven combatants on foot, and six on horseback; the other part is the mask or vizor to cover the face, which has very effeminate features, and joins exactly to the skull part, to which it was fastened by rings and studs, some of which still remain; with other ornaments which shall be noticed."

This helmet is of bronze, but seems of too delicate a nature for actual warfare. The figures depicted on it are all armed, and in fighting attitudes. It as well as the other articles found with it, are now in the British Museum.

II. An ansated patella of bronze, 5½ inches in diameter and 1 inch deep: entire, or nearly so.

III. The rim and handle of another bronze patella, 6¾ in. in diameter.

IV. The rim and handle of another bronze patella, 7½ in. in diameter.

V. "The remains of a vase, being the bottom and parts of its sides. It appears to have been about 10 inches in diameter and 15 in height, was highly finished, the polish still remaining in the inside, and the metal has a line of silver similar to that of which the ancient mirrors were made."

VI. "A bust of Minerva, attached to a circular disk," (both of bronze) "three inches in diameter, with the remains of the nails and cramps which served to fasten it."

A similar object is engraved by Caylus, in his Recueil d'Antiquités, vol. i, pl. 71.

VII. The remains of a bronze basin, 12 inches in diameter and 3 inches deep.

In addition to these there were found at the same time four circular plates of bronze, 4 inches in diameter, with a moulding at the border, slightly hollowed; three circular plates, formed like the preceding, but only 1½ inch in diameter, with the addition of a hinge and the remains of a tongue, from which it appears they may have been a sort of fibulae; four thin circular flat plates, 4 inches in diameter; a fragment "composed of a circular plate with a border near 4 inches in diameter, to which had been attached, by hinges in opposite directions, four circular buckles, nearly of the before-mentioned dimensions, one only of which remains. The whole appears to have been enriched with carved work, and gilt." Also a colander, "about 6 inches in diameter and near 4 in depth, in good preservation, with its perforations unusually large and of an elaborate design; also parts of two others exactly alike;" and "two pieces of ornament, seemingly parts of the stem of a candelabra, filled with lead." All the above were of bronze. There was also found "a circular basin of earthenware, 13 inches in diameter and 3 in depth, with a shallow spout across the border to pour out the liquid, and on the margin of it is this inscription, BORIED OF." (This is, doubtless, BORIEDI.
OFFICINA.) A large tusk of a boar, a piece of leather with a number of perforations in regular lines, as if made by nails, and a piece of wood ten inches long with a mortice, completed the articles obtained by Mr. Townley. But in a letter received by him from the Rev. T. D. Whitaker, and published in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, vol. 4, p. 12, it is stated that the latter gentleman saw the remains in the summer of 1796 (soon after their discovery), with the addition of "a "sphinx of bronze, which, from the remains of solder on the "lower side, and also from its curvature, appeared to have "been attached to some convex surface, probably to the "top of the helmet." Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Whitaker then describes the loss of this sphinx by the children of Laurence Walton, a brother of Joseph Walton. This helmet is engraved in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, in Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, and in Baines' *History of Lancashire*.

Dr. Whitaker, in his *History of Whalley* (3rd edit., p. 541), says that "a rude figure of Hercules" was wrought into the wall at Osbaldeston Hall; but in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. vi, p. 241, it is said that it is a figure of Mars with his spear, and that it was removed to the Old Hall at Tabley, Cheshire.* Dr. Whitaker also says, "Besides inscriptions, the smaller antiquities dis-"covered here are innumerable, the coins, of which many "are found of the large brass kind, are generally so much "corroded as to be scarcely legible. Denarii of the upper "empire are not uncommon. . . . Tradition also records 
"a singular discovery at Ribchester, viz., the skull of an ox, 
"covered with some remains of leather and studded with gold. 
"It is very possible that such a preparation might have been "used for some sacrificial purpose, and it was an idea not "likely to occur to an inventor." In the *Journal of the

* Lord de Tabley writes to me (November 18, 1877) that this figure, which is a bas relief, and a quern, are still in his possession.
British Archaeological Association (vol. 6, p. 246), Mr. Alien writes to Mr. Just, saying that “A beautiful and perfect fibula of bronze was also discovered in March, 1834, in the grounds of Harwood Fold, Clayton-le-Dale, through which the Roman road from Manchester to Ribchester passed (vide History of Whalley, p. 12). It is, or was, in the possession of I. Eccles, Esq., of Leyland, near Chorley.”

“You will doubtless have heard on the spot, that to the south-west of the chancel, about midway between the chancel and the churchyard wall, five steps were discovered at the same time with this altar (that found in 1833), each 4 feet in length, 1 foot 4 inches in width, and 4 inches in depth. The altar was discovered about twelve yards westward from the spot where the remains of the temple were excavated in 1813, surrounded by the appearances of burning, soot, &c., which have usually attended such disclosures at Ribchester. Near one of the stiles to the churchyard (I think to the East) is a stone resembling a low-backed seat, two feet and a half in height, one foot ten in breadth at the front, and one foot five at the sides, which is said to have been found near the pillar of the temple in 1813. Perhaps it may be the corner anta described by Dr. Whitaker.” History of Whalley, p. 19.

But, as at all other Roman stations, it is the inscriptions which have been found that prove the most interesting of the discoveries. These I now propose to give. The first of them, which is upon an altar, appears, from an anonymous writer in the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum, to have been found in 1578. It was first published, but very erroneously, by Camden in his Britannia. It was soon afterwards used as a building-stone in Salesbury Hall. As it was a corner-stone in the building, two of the faces remained exposed, one bearing the figure of Apollo resting upon his lyre, the other two figures bearing some object between them,
supposed to have been a basket of fruit or flowers. The inscribed side was turned inwards, and the back was plain and rough, as if intended to be placed against a wall. In 1814 Dr. Whitaker was permitted to detach it from the wall, when the inscription again saw the light of day, though Dr. Whitaker's copy of it is very erroneous. It came into his possession, and he bequeathed it to St. John's College, Cambridge, with a number of other stones bearing inscriptions. The inscription upon it, divested of ligatures, is as follows:

DEO . SAN
POLLINI . MAPON
... O . SALVTE . D.N.
... N.EQQ SAR
... BREMETENN
... ORDIANI
... ANTONI
... VS . >LEGVI
VIC . DOMV
MELITENIS
.... MIINI...

It will be seen that the commencement of the second to the seventh lines is wanting, and the tenth and eleventh are almost obliterated owing to the stone being much weather-worn. The sense of the inscription is, however, in the main, easily ascertainable. Its expansion is, I am inclined to think Deo San(clo) (A)pollini Mapon(o) (pr)o salute d(omini) n(ostrri) (et) N(umeri) Eq(uitum) Sar(matarum) Bremetennacensium Gordiani P(ublius) Antoni(an)us c(enturio) leg(ionis) VI. Vic(tricis) domu Meliten(s)is . .... i.e. To the holy god Apollo Maponus, for the safety of our lord (the emperor) and of the Numerus of the Sarmatian horse, styled the Bremetennacensian (and) Gordian, Publius Antonianus, centurion of the 6th legion (surnamed) the Conquering, a native of Melitene, (erected this altar).

Two inscriptions have been found, besides this, in England,
in which Mapontis is named. In one at Hexham, also erected by an officer of the 6th legion, he is styled Apollo Maponus, in the other simply Maponus. The latter was found at Armthwaite in Cumberland. The former is another example of the name of a British deity being annexed to that of a Roman god, as for instance, Mars Cocidius, Mars Belatucader, Silvanus Cocidius, &c. Dr. Hübner in the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Vol. VII, No. 218, reads the second line of this Ribchester inscription as Apollini et Matronis, though he gives the lettering in his copy of the inscription as I have done. This is clearly an error. The abbreviations D. N. for Dominus Noster are of frequent occurrence, though the omission of the name of the emperor is uncommon.

Another inscription on an altar found here, which Camden says “was the largest and fairest I ever saw,” is—

DEIS . MATRIBVS
M . INGENVI
VS . ASIATICVS
DEC . AL . AST
SS . LL . M

i.e. Deis Matribus M(arcus) Ingenuius Asiaticus Dec(urio) Al(ae) Ast(urum) s(usceptum) s(olvit) l(atus) l(ibens) m(erito). Deis for Deabus is unusual in epigraphy. This altar is now preserved at Stoneyhurst College, but the inscription is all but obliterated.

Another inscription seen by Camden upon a pillar at Salesbury Hall, a seat of the Talbots, is also given by one of the latter family in the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum; but as the two readings differ materially, I propose to give both of them; as follows:—

(CAMDEN.)
DEO
MARTI . ET
VICTORIAE
DD . AVGG
ET . CC . NN.

(TALBOT.)
DEO MARTI
ET . VICTORIAE
P . R . . . NO
H . CC . NN.
If Camden had rendered the last two lines as D D . N N A V G G . E T . C C , there would have been no difficulty in reading the inscription, as those lines would have expanded as Dominorum Nostrorum Augustorum et Caesarum; the whole inscription reading, "To the god Mars and to (or for) the victory of our lords the Augusti and Caesars." But he is evidently wrong. On the other hand, the inscription given in the Cottonian MSS. does not at first sight appear to be the same, its first two lines composing three lines in Camden's copy. Yet it is doubtful whether it is another inscription. Dr. Hübner expands it as Deo Marti et Victoriae P(opuli) R(oman) in h(o)no(rem) C(esarum) n(osorum).

Out of the two foregoing inscriptions (that to the Deae Matres, and this last to Mars, &c.) Dr. Leigh makes a compound, giving a portion of each. This needs but a glance to show that it is of spurious origin.

A fourth inscription, given by Camden, which he saw upon "another little altar cast out among the rubbish," was—

PACIFE
RO MARTI
ELEG AVR
BA POS
VIT EX VO
TO.

This is an altar to Mars Pacifer; and the only difficulty in it is the name of the person who erected it. Horsley suggests the reading Eleg(ans) Aur(elius) Ba(ssus), whilst Dr. Hübner reads the whole inscription as Pacifero Marti (Ma)e(ci)a Urba(na) posuit ex voto. The altar being lost, it is now impossible to ascertain the exact text of the third line and first part of the fourth.

Again, in the Cottonian MSS. (Julius F. X. f. 138 v.) there is an anonymous copy of an inscription found at Ribchester, which Camden also quotes from the papers of William
Lambarde. As the former copy seems the correct one, and is also more perfect, I shall adopt it. It is, free from ligatures, as follows—

**HIS TERRIS TEGITVR**  
**AEL . MATRONA QVOND**  
**VIX . AN . XXVIII . M . II . D . VIII .**  
**ET . M . IVL . MAXIMVS . FIL**  
**VIX . AN . VI . M . III . D . XX . ET . CAM**  
**PANIA . DVBITATAE . MATER**  
**VIX . AN . L . IVL . MAXIMVS**  
**S . C . ALAE SAR CONIVX**  
**CONIVGI . INCOMPARABILI**  
**ET . FILIO PATRI PIENTIS**  
**SIMO ET SOCAERE TENA**  
**CISSIME . MEMORIA . P .**

The phrase "**His terris tegitur,**" takes the place of *Diis Manibus.* S.C. stands for *s(ingularis) c(onsularis)* as in an inscription found at Irchester. The last letter (E) in *Dubitatae* is probably an addition of the copyist; certainly it is wrong. *Socaere* is a corruption of *Socrae.* This tombstone is now lost.

Camden also says (Gibson's Camden, p. 973), "Here was also lately dug up a stone with the portraiture of a naked man on horseback, without saddle or bridle, brandishing his spear with both hands, and insulting over a naked man prostrate, who defends himself with something in the form of a square. Between the horse and the person prostrate stand the letters D.M. Under the prostrate man are **GAL SARMATA.** The other letters (for there were many more) are so defaced that they cannot be read, and I shall not venture to guess at them." A similar description of this stone is given by Thomas Braithwaite, under date of Lancaster, 18th of January, 1604, in the Cottonian MSS. (Julius F. VI. f. 287.) The word read as **GAL** was certainly wrong. It was no doubt **EQ. AL. SARMATA,** and the sculpture was of a well-known type. The stone is now
lost. A similar stone, *minus* the inscription, was found at Ribchester in the spring of 1876, and is engraved in vol. xxviii of this Society's Transactions.

Another fragment (of an altar apparently), is named by an anonymous writer in the Cottonian MSS., and was first published by Professor Hübner in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, Vol. VII, No. 223. The above-named writer saw it "att Mr. Preston's att Preston." The inscription remaining was

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PATER SATVR
NNVS
I.O.V.L
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Beyond the words *Pater Saturninus*, nothing can with certainty be made out. Dr. Hübner suggests *I(ovi) O(ptimo) V(ovit) L(ibens)* for the remainder. This inscription is now lost. Horsley's No. 3 Lancashire, is what he calls a portion of a milliary pillar, which he saw lying in a garden at the west end of Ribchester, and near the river. He says that the inscription was much effaced and the letters at the bottom confused. Professor Hübner, however, publishes, in the volume above-named, another copy of, it is presumed, the same inscription, from a letter of Roger Dodsworth's, preserved in the Cottonian MSS. Dodsworth says, "Thes letters are on "the side of a piece of a round pillar, founf att Riblecester "this last summer, and seeue by me the 12th of 9ber, 1612, "but ther is other letters theron which I cannot expresse by "reason of my unexperience in thes kind of antiquities."

The two versions of the inscription are as follows:

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(DODSWORTHE.)
EN
IMP.CAES IMP.CAES
G.MES.IOQ
DEC.IO.TRN

(HORSLEY.)
IMP.CAES
MA
COPNXII
OM......I
CIGN......I
SEIFE
```
It must be remembered that Horsley did not see the stone (if the one he saw was the same), until nearly 120 years after Dodsworthe, and it would then by exposure be much worn. Dodsworthe's copy undoubtedly reads—D(omino) N(ostr) Imp(eratore) Caes(are) G(ai) Mes(sio) Q(uinto) Decio Tr(aia)n(o), and refers to the Emperor Decius, who reigned A.D. 249-251. On the other hand, it is possible that Horsley's inscription may be different, and commence—Imp(eratore) Caes(are) M(arco) A(urelio) (Antonino), &c. But it is much to be regretted that the last words on the pillar were not plain, as they would have given us the name of a town, with the distance between it and the milestone. From the letters given in the last line (though doubtfully) by Horsley, it is probable that the Portus Setantium of Ptolemy was named in the inscription which is now lost.

Horsley's No. 2 Lancashire inscription (in his Britannia Romana), is a portion of a large tablet, of which only the commencement of the lines, four in number, was visible. But here again Professor Hübner, by an inspection of the Cottonian MSS., has brought to light another portion of the inscription, sufficient indeed to restore the sense, if not the complete text of the whole. These fragments are—

\[\text{IMP. CA \ldots REL.A \ldots}
\text{IMP. CA \ldots REL.VE\ldots}
\text{VEX.LEG \ldots TAE\ldots}
\text{SVB.SEX \ldots RN\ldots}\]

From this Professor Hübner restores (no doubt correctly) the inscription thus:—Imp. Ca(es) (M. Au)rel. A(ntonino) (\ldots et) Imp. Ca(es) (L. Au)rel Ve(ro) (\ldots Augg) Vex. Leg(ionis Sex)tae (Victricis \ldots \ldots) Sub. Sex (Calpu)rn(io Agricol Leg. Augg. Pr. Pr).

This stone refers to the joint emperors, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus and Lucius Aurelius Verus, who reigned A.D. 161-169. From other inscriptions found in Britain, we
learn that Sextus Calpurnius Agricola was their legate in Britain circa A.D. 162. This stone is also lost. The inscription was flanked by *peltae*. The anonymous author in the Cottonian MSS. says that the letters were "burned off" the middle of the inscription.

We now come to the discovery of another important inscription, thus described by Dr. Whitaker*:

In the month of July, 1811, some workmen employed to stop the encroachments of the Ribble, almost opposite to the parish church of Ribchester, at the depth of about a yard beneath the present surface, met with the foundation of two parallel walls lying nearly North and South, at the distance of about twenty-four yards from each other, and very strongly cemented. The South side appears to have been carried away by the river, that on the North remained for the present unexplored. Among the rubbish were five human skulls, and a corresponding quantity of other bones, all of which had been disturbed before. At the same time and place was discovered a very curious stylus or bodkin, of hard yellow stone. Within the walls was an ordinary flagged floor; and near the South end lay the remains of a large flat stone, which the workmen inadvertently broke into many pieces before they discovered that the lower surface contained an inscription. The fragments being carefully collected and put together exhibit the following appearance.

An engraving of the stone is then given, but its ligatures are so numerous that it will be best to give the remaining letters in ordinary text. Dr. Whitaker bequeathed the stone to St. John's College, Cambridge, where it is now preserved.

The inscription is—

RO
I LII T ISDNET CASTR SV
VAL. CRESCENTIS FVL**ANI. LEG. EIVS. PR.
T. FLORID. NATALIS. LEG PRAEP. N. ET. REC
TEMPLVM. A. SOLO EX RE*PONSV
STITVIT. ET*EDICAVIT

It is evident that at least one line at the commencement is entirely lost; of the next only the letters RO remain, and of

* *History of Whalley* (third edition) p. 17.
the first half of the third only five letters remain. This stone is evidently of the reign of Caracalla, naming him and his mother Julia Domna, or of the reign of Severus Alexander, naming him and his mother Julia Mammaea, as these two empresses are the only ones who were each styled Mater Castrorum in inscriptions. The stone also gives us the name of an imperial legate or governor of Britain, otherwise unknown, Valerius Crescens Fulvianus. He appears to have been either ill or on leave of absence when the stone was erected, as Titus Floridius Natalis, a praepositus was acting as rector or governor pro tempore. The stone has also evidently been dedicated to some deity for the welfare or safety (pro salute) of the Emperor and his mother. The elaborate bronze helmet before mentioned was found within the area of this temple, and Dr. Whitaker, very erroneously taking it to be the head of Minerva, concludes that the temple was dedicated to her. What remains of the inscription may be expanded as follows:—(Deo) . . . . (p)ro (salute Imp. . . . et . . . . ma)•t(r)is d(omini) n(ostr)•i et castr(orum) su(b) (cura) Val(eri)i Crescentis Ful(vi)ani leg(ati) eius pr(o) pr(aetore) . T(itus) Florid(ius) Natalis leg(atus) praep(ositus) n(umeris) et rec(tor) . . . . . templum a solo ex re(s)ponsu (numinis re)stituit et (d)edicavit.

This seems to be a fitting place to record some further excavations made by Dr. Whitaker at this spot. In the summer of 1813 he obtained permission to excavate in the adjoining gardens between the river and the churchyard, and he accordingly explored as far as the south wall of the churchyard would admit. At a slight distance beneath the surface, immediately under the vegetable mould, he came upon a stratum of charcoal, evidently the remains of a timber roof which had been burned. Nearly in the centre of this stratum a cavity had been made by the uniting of the ends of the beams in their fall, large enough to contain a man sitting.
Beneath this was a confused mass of large amphorae, some almost entire at first, and many remnants of Samian paterae; several skeletons were also lying among them of tall powerful men. A steelyard and a denarius, in bad condition, of one of the Antonines, were also found. Some of the pottery was recently in the Rev. Mr. Allen's hands. One Samian fragment bore the potter's mark, MXIMI (i.e., Maximi). Two others of white earth were inscribed on their curved edges with the letters . . BINVS (i.e., Albinus) and VAL IX. The conclusion come to was that the building had evidently been stormed and burnt, some of the defenders perishing in the ruins; but an extraordinary fact was, that no roof-tiles or slates were found. A few months afterwards the sexton, in digging a grave in a previously unused spot in the churchyard, on the left hand side of the entrance, found the base of a column and an anta, "or square moulded corner of the naos itself, upright, and in their original situations," on large, rude foundation stones. They were parallel to each other, 4½ feet distant. Dr. Whitaker then argues that, upon architectural principles, the distance of the column from the anta should give the same distance from column to column. He supposes the inscription found to have been on the tympanum, and measuring from that spot to the corner anta, he would give the length of the temple as 112 feet, with sixteen columns in front. He says there had evidently been a complete peristyle, and adds that "at a distance of 45 feet westward in the churchyard, a line of mortar and rubbish, uniformly turned up in digging, ascertains the corresponding side of the temple, somewhat more than an oblong. A statue of a lion, which had evidently been carved for some architectural purpose, as one side was left rude and unfinished, had probably decorated this corner of the temple, since it was found within a few yards of the place. It is now in my possession." The column he describes as of
rude workmanship, less than 3 feet high and 27 inches in diameter. The circle of its base moulding had not been struck by the compass. One diameter exceeded the other by three-fourths of an inch. From the mouldings, it clearly appeared that the two bases then lying in the village of Ribchester had belonged to the same edifice.

Dr. Whitaker bequeathed to St. John's College, Cambridge, also, a stone inscribed—

LE\(G\).\(XX\).\(V\).\(V\)
FECIT.

which was found at Ribchester, but, as in his History of Walley and also in his History of Richmondshire, he describes a stone bearing this inscription, which bears upon its side the figure of a wild boar running (the emblem of the 20th legion), and as the stone at Cambridge does not seem to bear this figure, I agree with Professor Hübner that there are probably two examples. The reading of the above is simply Legio vicesima, valeria, victrix, fecit.

Dr. Whitaker tells us that in 1818 he was examining a dilapidated chimney, immediately adjoining the west side of the peristyle of the above-named temple, when he found built into it the lower part of an altar, inscribed

CVMSVIS.\(V\).

The last four letters stand for \(V(otum)\), \(S(olvit)\), \(L(ibens)\), \(M(erito)\). This is also at St. John's College, Cambridge. Another inscription was bequeathed to St. John's College by Dr. Whitaker, but it is doubtful whether it belongs to Ribchester or Lancaster, as a fine slab from the latter place was also amongst those left to the college. It was communicated to me in 1872 by the Principal of the college. It is one of the centurial class, and reads

COH .\(X\)
\(>\)TITIANA
O . P .\(XXVII\)
It records 27 feet of wall built by the Centuria Titiana of the tenth cohort of the (probably) twentieth legion. The O is rather puzzling, but it doubtless stands for *opus*. The whole would read *Coh(ortis) X centuria Titiana opus pedum xxvii*.

In the history of Whalley, p. 27 (3rd edit.), Dr. Whitaker says, "I have a gold ring, found here some years since, set "with a cornelian of many faces, with a dove in the centre, "and round it the words—

"**AVE . MEA . VITA .**"

He supposes it to be the gift of a lover to his mistress.

The last inscription found at Ribchester, was brought to light on the 28th February, 1833. It was a fine altar, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 1 foot 10 inches broad, and 1 foot 7 inches in depth, and was found in the churchyard at Ribchester. It is now preserved in the entrance hall of the vicarage.* The altar bears upon its sides representations of vine branches. It bore traces of burning, and with it were found "a small fibula and "ring of brass, a bulla apparently inscribed with some "characters, but now illegible," a brass coin of Trajan, another of Valerian, and a third, which was undecipherable. The last line but one and part of the last line of the inscription seem to be obliterated purposely, but the inscription runs thus, divested of ligatures—

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PRO SALVTET
ET . VICTORIA
INVICTI . IMPMAR
AVR SEVER . ANT
ONINI . P . F . AVGET . IVL
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* Since writing the above I have been informed by Miss FFarington of Worden Hall, that this altar has lately come into the possession of the Marquis de Rothwell, and has been removed by him to Marple Hall.
This is evidently dedicated to Caracalla, and reads—*Pro salute et victoria invicti imp(eratoris) Mar(ci) Aur(elii) Sever(i) Antonini P(ii) F(elicis) Aug(usti) et Jul(iae) Aug(ustae) matri(s) domini nostri et cas(trorum).* It is possible that the name of Geta has been erased in the seventh and part of the eighth lines. The letters SEPR have not as yet been made to yield their meaning.

Dr. Whitaker also says that the figure of a Roman standard bearer on a sepulchral stone without an inscription, preserved at Standen Hall, near Clitheroe, had been removed there from Ribchester by Mr. Sergeant Aspinall. He held the labarum in his hand.* Mr. Just says† that a fibula, a buckle, several coins, and two handles of amphorae, stamped C.I.I.S., are to be seen at the vicarage.

Mr. Allen writes to Mr. Just (p. 245) that two small gold coins had been found by a person named Swarbrick, 150 yards from the church, going up the river; (one of Nero, the other, found in December, 1834, of Faustina,) and that a silver coin of Septimius Severus had been found on the opposite bank in the same year. In 1829 two coins, one of Crispus and another of Marcus Aurelius, were found on Anchor Hill, and in 1830 a silver coin of Trajan was found in the Bowling Green. A gold coin of Trajan, of a rare type, was found by a boy in the gravel of the river bank in June, 1840, and a small silver coin of the same emperor was found in the same month. In *Baines’ History of Lancashire*‡ it is said that a small gold cup, with handles, was found at the back of the White Bull; and Mr. Allen states that an altar, uninscribed, had been found in the cellar of the same house, where it was preserved. In 1836, in excavations in the garden of Mr. Patchett, surgeon, remains of a bath, with

part of a leaden pipe, and portions of the foundation of a house were found. The floor was left untouched and covered up. This discovery took place in the N.E. angle of the station. In 1850, excavations made for the visit of the British Archaeological Association, laid bare the western wall of the castrum to its foundation. "Unlike the foundations of the walls of the ramparts at Borrow Bridge, Melandra Castle, &c., it consists of loose stones, without mortar or the cement grouting common to such foundations. On the opposite side, in the angle between the river and the junction of the brook, a large quantity of Roman pottery was found, consisting of numerous fragments of Samian ware, chiefly of paterae, many marked with the potter's name; one ampulla, with both handles perfect, and others broken; fragments of glass, of common pottery, nails, bones of animals, in which were tusks of boars and swine; five Roman coins, three of which are of silver, but much corroded; two appear to be coins of Vespasian and Titus, the third of Vitellius; two of copper, much corroded, but apparently of the same period, &c."

The size of the station would appear to be about ten acres. Fully one-fourth of it has been washed away by the river. Mr. Just says that the fishermen informed him that they could stand in the bed of the river, about middle deep, on the sunken Roman wall of the rampart. The northern rampart is about 300 yards in length, the eastern and western are about 130 to 140 yards, but the walls above ground have disappeared entirely. The last relic of importance brought to light was the sepulchral slab found in the spring of 1876, to which I have before alluded.

The roads leading to and from this station have now to be considered. That leading direct to the station from Manchester, which I have before noticed, appears to be of the Lower Empire. It passes over Blacksnake, and thence by
Harwood Fold, Davy Field, and, crossing the river Darwen, through Lower Darwen, and into Blackburn, where, Mr. Just says, it passes about forty yards to the east of St. John's Church. Thence it runs by Revidge, past the farms of "Higher Waves" and "Lower Waves," through Ramsgrave and Cunhiffe Moss, to Midge Hole. It then passes by another "Harwood Fold," near the "Royal Oak" Inn, and soon after falls in with the road to "Stubby Head," a house which stands upon it, "thence coincides with a deserted lane, which has a narrow paved causeway in the middle," falls in with another old road, is traceable next by a line of gravel through two or three fields, "and then disappearing in the last field on the "banks of the Ribble, crosses the Ribble about a quarter of "a mile to the east of Ribchester on the opposite bank."*

The great Roman road from Ribchester to Overborough and the North ran from the station over Longridge Fell; where, for some miles, it is very conspicuous.

Another fine road ran westward from Ribchester into the Fylde. At present its termination has not been traced, but appearances would suggest that it ran to a Roman port, at the head (or nearly so) of the estuary of the Wyre. Into this road fell, at almost right angles, the road coming from Coccium (Wigan) northward.

From Ribchester also another road runs E.N.E.; passing to the east of Clitheroe. It appears to be aiming for the large Roman villa at Gargrave, near Skipton, being traceable to within three miles of this point.

I have thus, I hope, laid before the Society (in a condensed form, I must admit) sufficient evidence of the extreme richness in antiquities of the site of Ribchester, and doubtless the use of the pick and the spade only is required to multiply that evidence tenfold.

* Proceedings Lit. and Phil. Soc. of Manchester, vol. vii, 2nd ser., p. 18.