

illustrating the Antiquities of our country, and is very capable to give us great assistance in doing so. This makes me very desirous that he be named a Correspondent Member, in which I beg you will be pleased to concur with me. I am, with all regard,

SIR,

Your obedient humble Servant,

Mr Cummyng, Secretary, &c.

JOHN GEDDES.

6 August 1792,

Office for Trade, Whitehall.

DEAR SIR,

I PRESUMED to think that it would gratify your Antiquarian curiosity in two respects to have a point of Scots Antiquities discussed by two such men as Randolph and Cecil. I was thus induced to inclose you two extracts of Randolph's letters, which I found in the Paper Office, and which gave notice of a Cave discovered at Musselburgh, in 1565, containing a Roman inscription, and thereby appearing to be a Roman remain.

I need not remark to you, that this discovery is not now for the first time mentioned to the Antiquarian World. Camden (Brit. vol. ii. p. 1185,) noticed the Inscription which had been dug up at Musselburgh, and which was published by Napier in his Commentaries on the Apocalypse, in 1593 (a). This inscription is truly given by Horsey (Brit. Romana, p. 206,) in the following words:—'APOLLINI GRANNO, QUINTUS LUCIUS SABINIANUS, PROCONSUL AUGUSTI, VOTUM SUSCEPTUM SOLVIT, LUBENS MERITO.' The Dedication, as Horsey observes, was plainly To the Long-haired Apollo. Sir James Dalrymple says, in his Additions to Camden, that the Stone containing this Inscription was found at Merchiston. But this is inconsistent with the discovery mentioned by Randolph, who wrote at the time, and is more particular in his Notices than any of those who came after him in time, and fell short of him in information. I flatter myself, then, that you will consider Randolph's Extracts as of some importance to the Antiquarian World, both as it corrects Sir James, and as it is more illustrative of the fact, the time, and the circumstance (b).

(a) Napier's words are as follows:—He says, besides in Rome itself, 'In every part of that empire are there infinite of these Temples, Idols, and other monuments erected, bearing such proude and blasphemous superscriptions and titles dedicatorie, as *Diis, Manibus, Fortuna, Plutoni, Veneri, Priapo*; and even at Musselburgh, among ourselves in Scotland, a foundation of a Roman monument lately found (now utterlie demolished) bearing this inscription dedicatorie, *Apollini Granno, Quintus Lucius Sabinianus, Proconsul Aug.*'—PLAINE DISCOVERIE, &c. p. 210. Edinburgh, 1593, 4to.

(b) The concluding part of Mr Chalmers' letter has unfortunately been mislaid or lost.

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V.—*Letters from GEORGE CHALMERS, Esq. and the Reverend JOHN GEDDES, D. D. respecting the Extracts from Randolph's Letters concerning the Roman Antiquities discovered near Musselburgh, in 1565.*

[In the Appendix to the Transactions, Vol. II. Part I. (pp. 287, 288) are inserted Extracts from two original letters by Thomas Randolph, English Resident at the Court of Scotland, dated 7th and 18th April 1565, respecting a Cave and some Roman Antiquities which were then discovered near Musselburgh. The following letters from Mr Chalmers and Dr Geddes accompanied these Extracts, and have been thought worthy of being here preserved. In that volume of Transactions (pp. 159–167) a minute account of the same Antiquities, by Mr Adam de Cardonnel, is inserted, along with an engraving. The Writer was evidently not aware of the previous discovery in 1565, as he speaks of their having been first found out in January 1783; although he refers to Sir Robert Sibbald's account of the Roman Altar, with the Inscription APOLLINI GRANNO.

The following very curious notice from the Treasurer's Accounts may be here added: It is interesting, not only as shewing that Mary Queen of Scots was aware of the discovery, but as a proof of her anxiety for the safety and preservation of these Ancient Remains. 'APRILE 1565:—ITEM, TO ANE BOY PASSAND OF EDINBURGH WITH ANE CHARGE OF THE QUENIS GRACE, DIRECT TO THE BAILLIES OF MUSSILBURGH, CHARGING THAME TO TAK DILIGENT HEID AND ATTENDANCE, THAT THE MONUMENT OF GRIT ANTIQUITIE NEW FUNDIN BE NOCHT DEMOLISIT NOR BROKIN DOWN; XII D.']

*Blackfriars' Wynd, Sept. 4th, 1792.*

SIR,

HAVING received the inclosed letter and extracts from Randolph's Papers, concerning the discovery of Antiquities at Musselburgh, from George Chalmers, Esq. Clerk to the Board of Trade at London, I presume to offer them to the Society, knowing that this will be agreeable to Mr Chalmers, who wishes to co-operate with us in il-