

NOTICES OF VARIOUS ROMAN COINS FOUND IN THE RED ABBEYSTEAD
AND ADJOINING FIELDS TO THE EAST OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWSTEAD,
ROXBURGHSHIRE.

“Since bringing under the notice of the Society the Roman remains found in the vicinity of the village of Newstead, Roxburghshire, I have examined more particularly some of the coins found there at various times, partly to endeavour to shew what proofs may be derived from them, as to the true period of the

¹ “Since this paper was read, my attention has been called to the following passage in Sir Walter Scott’s *Border Antiquities, Introduction*, vol. i., p. xiii. ‘There is an altar in the Advocates’ Library of Edinburgh, inscribed to the *Divi Campestris*, or Fairies. It was found in the romantic vicinity of Roxburgh Castle.’ Precise as this statement appears, it will not probably be considered sufficient to invalidate the above deductions. I have since had a letter from a professional friend in Kelso, in answer to some inquiries about this altar, in which he tells me that none of his Archaeological friends ever heard of such a discovery as I allude to, near Roxburgh Castle, or anywhere in the neighbourhood. I have failed, as yet, in recovering any notice of it in the Minutes of the Faculty of Advocates, or of the Royal Society, in one or other of which it is probable that the precise locality may be recorded.”

Roman occupation of this district ; though the discovery of coins of an early date is by no means a sure evidence of the ancient origin of the ruins among which they may be found, as they would undoubtedly remain in circulation long after the death of the Emperor whose image they bear ; and the presence of coins, of a comparatively recent date, scattered over the site of a station, affords an undoubted proof of the later period of the hidden hoard, or the more recent occupation of the ruined town. Still the greater abundance and good preservation of the earlier coins, would incline me to believe that the principal occupation of the station had been at an early period.

“ Of the coins found in this district, two seem to be *Consular Denarii*, which, from long use, have been almost obliterated, and are therefore of uncertain date. The next are stray coins, a Denarius of *Marcus Antonius*, in poor preservation, ANT . AVG . III . VIR . R . P . C. Prætorian Gallery. R. LEG... Legionary eagle between two standards. A well-worn Second Brass of the *Emperor Augustus*, B.C. 29 to A.D. 14, and an Aureus of *Nero*, bringing us down to the date of his death, in A.D. 68 ; these of course belong to the times of the earliest invasion of South Britain, and have undoubtedly been brought north at a much later period. And we have next a nearly regular succession of coins from *Vespasian*, who succeeded Nero A.D. 69, down to *Antonius Pius*, and *Aurelius*, who died A.D. 180. Of these may be mentioned : Two Denarii of Vespasian, one in good preservation : Ob. Laureated head of Emperor to right. IMP . CAES . VESP . AVG . P . M . COS . IIII . R. Winged Victory standing to right, crowning a trophy. VICTORIA . AVGVST . A second found in the railway cutting in 1846 : R. Robed figure sitting to left, in the field, TRI . POT. And a third Brass, in poor preservation, found at the same time.

“ *TITUS*. An Aureus, in good preservation, ploughed up in the Red Abbeystead in 1792, and obligingly communicated to me by C. Plummer, Esq., of Sunderland Hall, Selkirkshire, in whose possession it now is : Ob. T. CAESAR . VESPASIANVS . Laureated head of Emperor to right. R. Annona (Abundance) seated to left, right hand raised holding a chaplet. ANNONA . AVG.

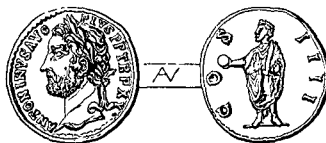
“ *DOMITIAN*. A Denarius. Laureated head of Emperor to right, CAESAR . DIVI . F . DOMITIANVS . COS . VII . R. Altar with fire, the fillets hanging down on each side. PRINCEPS . IVVENTVTIS.

“ *TRAJAN*. An Aureus, Denarius, and Second Brass. Denarius : IMP . CAES . NERVA . TRAIAN . AVG . GERM . Laureated head of Trajan to right. R. P . M . TR . P . COS . II . P . P. Robed figure seated to left.

“ *HADRIAN*. Seven Denarii and one Second Brass, in pretty good preservation. 1. Ob. HADRIANVS . AVG . COS . III . P . P. Laureated head to right. R. TELLVS (STABIL). Female figure standing to left, in her left hand a cornucopia, and

behind a child standing. 2. Ob. IMP . CAESAR . TRAIAN . HADRIANVS . AVG. Laureated head of Emperor to right. R. P . M . TR . P . COS . III. Winged Victory standing to right with a trophy. 3. Ob. CAESAR . HADRIANVS . AVG. Laureated head of Hadrian to right. R. P . M . TR . P . COS . III., female figure seated to left. In exergue, CONCORD. Railway cutting 1847. 4. Ob. IMP . CAESAR . TRAIAN . (HADRIANVS . AVG.) Draped bust of Hadrian with laureated head to right. R. P . M . TR . P . (COS . III), female standing to left, holding in right hand a patera above an altar, in her left the hasta pura. In exergue, CLEM. 1847. Second Brass, Ob. HADRIANVS . AVGVSTVS. Laureated head of Emperor to right. R. COS . III. A galley. In exergue, S . C. Since the date of the communication, a Denarius of Hadrian, in good preservation, was found in July 1852 in the Well Meadow, Newstead. Ob. Laureated head to right. HADRIANVS . AVG . COS . III . P . P . R. Fortune standing to left, in right hand a patera, a cornucopia supported by the left arm. FORTVNA . AVG.

“The following Denarii have also recently been turned up :—“ HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS. Laureated head to right. R. COS . III. A soldier standing to right, holding a spear in right hand, and parazonium on left, and resting his left foot on a helmet. Laureated head of Hadrian to right... HADRIA..... R..... Roma seated to left, holding a Victory. It was in the time of Vespasian that Agricola arrived in Britain, and towards the close of the reign of his successor Titus, about A.D. 80, that he first advanced into the lowland districts of Scotland, and after varied success set to work to form his line of forts between the streams of the Forth and Clyde, as the defensive boundary of his attempted conquest. He was recalled by the next Emperor, *Domitian*, a Denarius of whom has been found here; and it is believed that under the short reign of the aged Nerva, and that of his successor *Trajan*, tumults and wars were of constant occurrence. Then follows *Hadrian*, who, as well as the previous Emperor, is represented by several coins. The coins of Hadrian, indeed, seem to have been more frequently found than those of any other Emperor; though, on his visit to Britain, he proclaimed his slight hold over our country by cutting off Scotland by his *vallum*, from the more settled south. I have next to notice a gold coin in very fine preservation, figured here, of the Emperor *Antoninus Pius*, the adopted son of Hadrian, who reigned from A.D. 138 to A.D. 161; and also a Denarius of *Faustina the Elder*, his Queen. Aureus: Ob. ANTONINVS . AVG . PIVS . P . P . TR . P . XV. Laureated head of Emperor to left. R. COS . IIII. The Emperor, to gate, standing to left, right arm extended holding a globe, a short baton in



left hand. Denarius of Faustina. Ob. DIVA . FAUSTINA. Head of Faustina to right. R. CONSECRATIO. Peacock walking to right. Both were found in 1793. Under the rule of Antoninus Pius, Lollius Urbicus was appointed legate in Britain: he resumed possession of the south of Scotland, and apparently obliged to be content with what he had regained, connected the old forts of Agricola by his strong *vallum* across the isthmus between the Forth and Clyde. Under his command the possessions south of this wall seem to have been completely maintained, and to this period, from the regular succession of the coins, their greater number, and their good state of preservation, &c., I am inclined to ascribe the principal occupation of this station, although its origin was probably even of a much older, if not of the very earliest date, from its being directly on the great northern road, and at such a short distance, comparatively speaking, from the more settled districts of Albion. The succeeding Emperor, *Marcus Aurelius*, however, appears to have had to renew the contest with the Caledonians. I have not seen a coin of this Emperor found here, but his name is given in a short list of coins mentioned by Milne, in his Description of Melrose Parish, published in 1743, as found in the district, and coins of all the other Emperors mentioned by him. (viz., Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, and Constantine; with the exception of the last, all belonging to the earlier period of the Roman occupation), have been more recently found in these very fields. His reign extended from A.D. 161 to A.D. 180. After this there occurs a blank in the catalogue of coins of between 80 and 90 years, including the reigns of several Emperors, and among these of Severus, who penetrated far north into Caledonia in an attempt to put a final termination to the resistance of the northern tribes; but after a longer or shorter occupation, concluded by withdrawing to the south, and fixed the Roman boundary on the old line of Hadrian's Wall, dying at York, as is believed, in A.D. 211. The south of Scotland after this time seems to have continued more or less in open revolt; and it is not till the reign of *Victorinus*, A.D. 265 to A.D. 267, who is believed to have been in Britain, that the list recommences, and we are again carried by a few straggling coins through the varying scenes of peace and war, to a considerably later date. We have next a stray coin of *Diocletian*, A.D. 286 to A.D. 313, who ruled the eastern provinces of the Empire, his colleague Maximianus Hercules reigning in the west. Then one of *Carausius*, a native of Belgic Gaul, who, during the reign of the Emperors just mentioned, revolted, and, sailing for Britain, ruled in defiance of the power of Rome, and at last was slain by his minister Allectus, A.D. 293. In A.D. 292 Diocletian adopted *Galerius Maximianus*, and finally abdicating the empire nominated him his successor A.D. 305. His rule is also represented here by one coin.

Maximianus Herculius about the same time followed the example of his colleague, and appointed Constantius Chlorus to fill his place, under whose reign Britain was retaken from the usurper Allectus. Constantius himself visited this island, and after repulsing the attacks of the untiring men of the north, now called Picts, died at York in the year 306, having declared his son Constantine, Cæsar, afterwards *Constantine the Great*. Several of his coins have been turned up in this district; and no Roman coins of a later date, as far as I have been able to learn, have been found in the neighbourhood.

“It was not, however, till A.D. 364, or 27 years after Constantine’s death, that Valentinian became Emperor, and under his reign, in the latter part of the fourth century, that the south of Scotland was again added to Roman Britain, the distinctive appellation of Valentia, in honour of the Emperor, being finally given to it; and it is to this period that some antiquaries are inclined to date the origin of many of our Roman remains, traces of which are still to be found. I need hardly say, that as far as these remains near Newstead are concerned, I differ from my friend, Dr Wilson, who, in his ‘*Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*,’ refers to them as probably belonging to this later period. I consider this nearly consecutive list of the earlier coins an additional argument in favour of my previously stated opinion of their much more ancient origin.

“It was not till twenty years after the beginning of the fifth century, that a Roman Legion was seen for the last time in Scotland, attempting by the sword to restore their dominion over the country; and, as the troubles of the Empire continued to increase, Valentia was finally abandoned to its native population, the Roman forces being withdrawn, and the colonists recommended to remove to the more thoroughly conquered province to the south of the well-known ramparts of Hadrian and Severus’s Wall.

“Of these later coins the following may be noted, as in best preservation:—

“VICTORINUS. A Third Brass. Radiated head of Emperor to right. IMP . C . VICTORINVS . P . F . AVG. R. Peace standing to left, holding up a flower in her right hand, a spear transversely in left. PAX . AVG. In field, v*x.

“CARAVSIUS. Third Brass. Ob. IMP . C . CARAVSIVS . P . AVG. Radiated head of Emperor to right. R. PAX . AVG. Female figure of Peace standing to left. In field, s . p . In exergue, c.

“GALERIUS MAXIMIANUS. Second Brass. Laureated head of Emperor to right. MAXIMIANVS . NOBIL . C . R. Male figure standing to left, holding a patera in right hand, and a cornucopia in left. GENIO . POPVLI . ROMANI. In field, s . F . In exergue, ATR.

“CONSTANTINUS MAXIMUS. 1. Third Brass. Laureated head of Emperor to right. IMP . CONSTANTINVS . AVG. R. Male figure of sun, with radiated head,

standing to left, his right hand raised, and holding in his left a globe. SOLI . INVICTO . COMITI. In field, S. F. In exergue, PLC.

" 2. Third Brass. IMP . CONSTANTINVS . P . F . AVG. R. same as above, except in field, T . F. and in exergue, PLN.

" 3. Third Brass. Bust of Emperor to right, with laureated head, in his right hand a sceptre, surmounted by an eagle. CONSTANTINVS . AVG. R. BEATA . TRANQVILLITAS. A globe and three stars above a cippus, on which: VOTIS . XX. In exergue, STR. and a crescent.

" 4. Third Brass. Laureated head of Emperor to right. CONSTANTINVS . AVG. R. D . N . CONSTANTINI . MAX . AVG. Within a wreath: VOT . XX. In exergue, FISIS. and a star.