

I.

NOTICES OF THE ROMAN ALTARS AND MURAL INSCRIPTIONS PRESENTED BY THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE CLERK OF PENICUIK, BART.

PENICUIK HOUSE, *December 18, 1857.*

SIR,—I herewith send four large and twelve smaller Roman Altars and Mural Inscriptions, which I trust the Antiquarian Society will consider worthy of their acceptance. These antiquities have been chiefly found in Scotland, and some near the Roman Wall in Cumberland. As they are almost all described in Gordon's *Itinerarium* or Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, I have in the accompanying list merely referred to the places in these works where a description of them will be found. I remain, your obedient servant,

G. CLERK.

The Secretary of the Society of
Antiquaries, Edinburgh.

[This addition to the Society's Museum being one of more than ordinary importance, it was deemed proper to give in this place a more detailed notice of these antiquities, instead of the brief list transmitted by Sir GEORGE CLERK. It is perhaps unnecessary to say, that Sir JOHN CLERK of Penicuik, commonly known as Baron Clerk, from having been one of the Barons of Exchequer in Scotland, by whom these remains were collected, was among the most eminent Antiquaries of his time in this country. But it may not be considered out of place to give the following extract from a Memoir of his seventh son, and one of the ori-

ginal members of our Society, prefixed to the Bannatyne Club volume, entitled, "A Series of Etchings, chiefly of Views in Scotland. By JOHN CLERK of Eldin, Esq., 1773-1779. With additional Etchings and Fac-similes from his Drawings. Edinburgh, 1855." Folio.

"After the Union of the Kingdoms, when the Court of Exchequer in Scotland was erected, JOHN CLERK, Esq., younger of Penicuik, was appointed one of the Barons. This important office he filled for nearly half a century; his commission bearing date on the 13th of May 1708, and he surviving till the 4th of October 1755. In 1710 Baron Clerk purchased the property of Cammo, now called New Saughton, in the parish of Cramond, where he continued to reside till his father's death in the year 1722, when he succeeded to the baronetcy and estate of Penicuik. He was twice married. By his first wife, Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of Alexander, third Earl of Galloway, he had an only son, John, who was born in 1702, and died unmarried in 1722.¹ Baron Clerk's second wife was Janet Inglis, daughter of Sir John Inglis of Cramond, by whom he had a very numerous family, consisting of nine sons and seven daughters. His long residence at Cammo, and his connection with the proprietor of Cramond, one of the most important Roman stations in Scotland, had probably the effect of directing his attention to the subject of antiquities, while it enabled him to form the extensive and interesting collection of Roman remains which he transferred to his paternal seat. When Gordon was employed in compiling his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*,² he was assisted by Baron Clerk; and in acknowledging such aid, he says, that 'among all the collections of Roman Antiquities in Scotland, that of Baron Clerk justly claims the preference, both as to number and curiosity; and it would require a treatise to describe them.' The Baron himself published a tract, entitled, 'Dissertatio de Monumentis quibusdam Romanis, in Boreali Magnæ Britanniæ Parte detectis, anno 1731.' Edinburgi, 1750, 4to. He also printed a 'Dissertatio de Styliis Veterum et diversis Chartarum Generibus.' 4to. It is anonymous and without date; but a detailed abstract

¹ See the Account of the Family in Douglas's Baronage of Scotland, pp. 420-425; and in Playfair's Baronetage.

² London, 1727. Additions, London, 1732, folio.

Reliquiæ quædam Populi Romani apud Scoto-Britannos anno 1733 detectæ et quæ nunc in domo D.I.C in Comitatu Edinburgenfi conservantur.



- 1 Statua Brigantæ.
- 2 Ara Deo Mercurio dicata.
- 3 Aquila Romana.
- 4 Patera in Sacrificiis usitata.
- 5 Sympuuium vel Simpulum.
- 6 Basis Statuæ Mercurii.
- 7 Fragmenta Mercurii.

of the Dissertation, by Roger Gale, Esq., V.P., was communicated to the Royal Society of London, and printed in the Philosophical Transactions for August and September 1731 (vol. xxxvi. p. 157), in which 'the Hon. Sir John Clerk, one of the Barons of the Exchequer in Scotland,' is styled the learned and judicious Author. The Baron's zeal and learning in treating of such subjects is not less conspicuous in his correspondence with the same eminent English Antiquary, from 1726 to 1743."¹

Of Baron Clerk's *Dissertatio*, 1750, a number of copies, along with the engraved plate which accompanies it, were obligingly placed at the Society's disposal by Mr David Laing, Editor of the above volume, at the time when Sir George Clerk's valuable donation was presented. By this means those members who felt interested in such remains had it in their power to acquire a copy; and an impression of the original copper-plate is here given (Plate IV.) Of the *Dissertatio* itself it is unnecessary to give any abstract, as Gordon has inserted the substance of it at page 27 of his "Additions and Corrections by way of Supplement to the *Itinerarium Septentrionale*," London, 1732, folio, under this title, "A Dissertation on some Antiquities found at Middleby, in the Stewartry of Annandale, in Scotland." Gordon and Horsley's works are too well known to require any special notice; but references in the following list are also given to the "Caledonia Romana: a Descriptive Account of the Roman Antiquities of Scotland," by the late Robert Stuart of Glasgow. Edinburgh, 1845, 4to. Second edition, with Additions. Edinburgh, 1852, 4to.]

A DETAILED LIST OF THE ROMAN ALTARS AND INSCRIBED STONES
PRESENTED BY THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE CLERK, BART. OF
PENICUIK.

FOUND IN SCOTLAND.—Near *Croy, Dumbartonshire.*

I. Centurial Stone, 10 inches long by 5 inches broad, inscribed

[LEG · V], found at Craigend, near Croy, on the line of the Ro-

¹ "Reliquiæ Galeanæ," published in Nichols's *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, vols. i. and ii. London, 1781-82, 4to.

man Wall of Antoninus Pius, popularly known by the name of Graham's Dyke. It was presented to Baron Clerk by Alexander Gordon, A.M., the author of the *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, and is described by him at page 56, and is figured in plate x. fig. 4 of that work. (See also Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, page 200, and Stuart's *Caledonia Romana*, 2d edition, p. 340.)

- II. Sculptured Stone, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $6\frac{1}{2}$ broad, inscribed

LEG·VI

V·I·C·R·F

found at Croehill or Croyhill, near Craigend. (See Gordon's *Itiner. Sept.*, plate x. fig 3, p. 56.)

- III. Upper part apparently of a small Altar, with moulded top, about 9 inches high by 8 inches broad, with two lines of inscription greatly defaced. It was found at Craigend, Graham's Dyke.
- IV. Another Centurial Stone, with its inscription much defaced, found at Craigend, Graham's Dyke; it measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad.

Near Falkirk, Stirlingshire.

- V. Altar, 3 feet 3 inches high, 17 inches square, with richly moulded top and base, and with the emblematic figures on its three sides of a triumphal wreath, a bow, and a quiver; the inscription on the fourth side is unfortunately much defaced. It was found close by a house called Auchenvole, on the line of the Roman Wall, near Falkirk, and was procured for Baron Clerk by Alexander Gordon, A.M. (See *Itiner. Sept.*, p. 55, plate xiii. figs. 1, 2; also *Caledonia Romana*, plate xiii. No. 8; and Horsley, p. 219, plate Scotland, No. 15.)

Near Cramond.

- VI. Centurial Stone, 11 inches long by 6 inches broad, inscribed,

| | | |
|----|------------|----|
| | LEG·II·AVG | |
| IV | F E C I T | SA |

found at Cramond. (See *Itiner. Sept.*, plate x. fig. 7; Stuart's *Caledonia Rom.*, plate iv. fig. 7, p. 167.)

Middleby or Birrens, Dumfriesshire.

- VII. A full-length figure of a Female, supposed to be the Goddess Brigantia, in a circular topped niche, 3 feet high by 16 inches square, wearing a mural crown, winged and draped, with a long spear in right hand, a globe in the left, with an inscription on the base below the figure,

BRIGANTIÆ S· A M A N D V S
ARCITECTVS EX IMPERIO·IMP·I

It was found near the Roman camp called Birrens, at Middleby, Annandale. (See Clerk, *Dissertatio de Monument.*, plate, fig. 1 (see the accompanying Plate IV.); Stuart's *Caledonia Romana*, p. 125, plate ii. fig. 3; Horsley, p. 192, Scotland, plate xxxiv.; Gordon, *Itiner. Sept.*, Additions, p. 27, plate lxxviii. fig. 1.)

- VIII. Altar to Mercury, found near the Roman camp at Middleby, Annandale, 2 feet 7 inches high, with the emblem of a bird over a patera on one side, and on the other a simpulum and patera. The inscription is as follows:

DEO ·MERC^V.
R^O IVL^CERS
CENSSIG·IL^L
COLLIG^NC^VL^L
IEVS·D·S·D
V S L M

It is figured and described in Clerk's *Dissert. de Monument.*, plate, figs. 2, 3, 4, 5 (see Plate IV.); Horsley, p. 342; Stuart, plate xi. fig. 4, p. 126.

- IX. Pedestal or Altar, 2 feet 7 inches high by 14½ broad, with inscription; on which there was the portion of a statue, apparently of Mercury, when the Altar was discovered; this, however, was unfortunately not preserved. It was found near the

Roman camp at Middleby, Annandale. (See Clerk, *Dissert. de Monument.*, plate, figs. 6, 7 (see Plate IV.); Horsley, p. 341; and Stuart, p. 127, plate ii. fig. 5.)

N V M · A V G
 D E O · M E R C
 S I G N · P O S V
 E R V N T · C V L
 T O R E S · C O L
 L I G N I · E I V S
 D E M D E I C V R
 I N G · R V F O
 V · S · L · M ·

- X. Sculptured Head of a Female Statue, with hair rolled back at the sides. It is about 7 inches in length, and was found near the Roman camp at Middleby, Annandale.
- XI. Portion of a Stone, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by 5 inches broad, found at Middleby, Annandale, inscribed as follows—the figure $\overline{\text{VI}}$ in the centre being encircled by a wreath:—

L E G I O
 V · $\overline{\text{VI}}$ · R
 F

FOUND IN ENGLAND.—At *Housesteads, Northumberland.*

- XII. Small Altar, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by 5 inches broad, found at Housesteads (the ancient Borovicus), on the Roman Wall of Severus. (See Gordon, *Itiner. Sept.*, plate xl. fig. 8; Horsley, p. 192 (Northumberland), plate lxix.) A Dolphin is rudely sculptured on the one side, and a Wild Boar on the other, and it is inscribed apparently as follows:—

D I R V S
 Y I T I R I E V S
 D E C C I V S.
 V · S · L · M ·

- XIII. Small Altar, without inscription, 13 inches high, 6 inches broad, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness; found at Housesteads.
- XIV. Small Altar, also without inscription, measuring $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and 8 inches broad, found at Housesteads. (See Gordon, p. 77, plate xxxii.)
- XV. Bas-relief, 14 inches high by 10 inches broad, representing the lower part of a Female Figure, with flowing robes, found at Housesteads. (See Gordon, plate xxxvii. fig. 6.)
- XVI. Bas-relief, 22 inches high, 14 inches at base, representing a Roman Soldier with a long spear in the right hand, the left resting on an oval shield; found at Housesteads. (See Gordon, plate xxxvii. p. 77.)