

IV.

NOTICE OF A THIRD BRASS OF ROMULUS, SON OF MAXENTIUS, AND OTHER COINS, FOUND AT PÆSTUM. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., SEC. S.A. SCOT.

In the beginning of April 1868 I was fortunate enough to be able to ascend Vesuvius, and see by night the awful grandeur of an eruption; and on the 8th of the month I had the pleasure of paying a visit to the magnificent ruins of the ancient city of Pæstum. These ruins are believed to be second only in importance to those of Athens, and the most ancient examples of classical architecture in Italy. A visit to Pæstum can now be made without any difficulty, going by railway from Naples to Salerno, sending from thence a carriage to wait for you at the railway station of Battipaglia, which you reach by the first train next morning, then driving to Pæstum, and back to Battipaglia in the evening, in time to catch the last train for Naples. The trip is now also almost free from the danger of brigands, as the Italian Government requires each party of visitors to take a guard of at least two mounted troopers (armed with sword, carbine, and revolver). This guard we got at the village of Battipaglia, they crossed with us the river Sele, and were there succeeded by other two from a barrack close by, who went with us to Pæstum, followed us closely through the ruins, and left us again at the ferry of the Sele, to be replaced by the first soldiers who returned with us to Battipaglia.

When walking among the ruins a peasant woman offered me the head of a small terra cotta female figure, or Venus, which she had picked up there (exhibited); and on passing several peasants busily engaged digging the ground within the walls, not far from the temples, one of them came to me with a few brass coins he had found. Most of these are of comparatively little interest, except as being found in that locality. They consist of—

1. Two small coins of Pæstum,—one having half a bear on the *Obverse*, and apparently one or two globules or dots, to denote its value; one, two,

three, four, five, and an S or six dots; signifying the uncia (or twelfth part), sextans, quadrans, triens, quincunx, and semis or half, respectively,—the various parts or divisions of the As. The other coin is illegible; but our Curator, Mr Sim, thinks, from its general appearance, it is probably also a coin of Pæstum.

2. A coin of Pæstum, the size of a third brass. It is partly broken, and has on the *Obverse* the head of a young man (Bacchus) crowned with ivy and looking to the right; and behind the head, four dots or globules. *Reverse*, a cornucopia with a bunch of grapes hanging from it on each side, and behind the cornucopia, four dots. It is therefore a triens, and of the date of about 200 years before Christ.

3. The next is an early Roman coin. *Obverse*, a man's head looking to right; *Reverse*, prow of a galley, and below, two dots. A sextans, or sixth part of the As, and is of the size of the third brass.

4. A third brass of the Emperor Valens, A.D. 328. *Obverse*, Victory marching to left, with crown and palm. *Reverse*, SECURITAS REIPUBLICÆ. A common coin.

5. The last coin is rather a rare one, and in fine condition. A Third Brass of Marcus Aurelius Romulus, the son of Maxentius, born about A.D. 306, and died A.D. 309. *Obverse*, bare head of Romulus looking to right, with the legend, DIVO ROMVLO NVBIS CONS. *Reverse*, a circular temple or tomb, with a dome, and on it above, an eagle with expanded wings, AETERNÆ MEMORIÆ. In the *Exergue*, the letters MOSTT (*Moneta Signata Treveris*).

There is no specimen of this coin in the collection of the Society. There are, however, two of a Second Brass of Romulus, also of a rare type, but not in fine condition. It displays on the *Obverse*, bare head of Romulus looking to right, IMP MAXENTIUS DIVO ROMVLO NV FILIO. *Reverse*, a circular temple with dome, and eagle above, with expanded wings, AETERNÆ MEMORIA. In *Exergue*, MOSTT, these letters are the same as on the third brass; the coins have, therefore, been struck at the same place.

The reading of the letters NV, and of NVBIS CONS, in the legend of these coins, has always been considered a complete numismatic puzzle, and it is only very recently that the true explanation has been suggested by M. de Longpérier, as being for NV—N(OBLISSIMO) V(RO); and Mr

George Sim has called my attention to the following notice published by Mr John Evans in the "Numismatic Chronicle" for 1865:—

"The interpretation of the legend NVBIS CONS, which occurs after the name of Romulus, the son of Maxentius, on many of his coins, has been the subject of much dispute among numismatists. M. de Longpérier, however, in the 'Revue Numismatique,' N.S. vol. i. p. 36, pointed out what appears beyond doubt the proper interpretation of the legend, as DIVO ROMULO, N(OBILISSIMO) V(IRO) BIS CONS(VLI). An inscription discovered on the site of the ancient Troesmis, in Lower Mæsia, is of interest, both as affording corroboration, if such were needed, of M. de Longpérier's suggestion, and as giving an instance of the use of a nearly similar title at an earlier date. It is to the honour of Tib. Claud. Pompeianus, who was consul for the second time in 173, and is thus given by M. Leon Renier in the 'Revue Archæologique' for December 1865 (p. 405):—

TIBCLPOM
PEIANOCV
BISCONSVLI
GVALFIRMVS
CLEGIITAL

TIBERIO CLAUDIO POMPEIANO CLARISSIMO VIRO BIS CONSULI GAIUS VALERIUS FIRMUS, CENTURIO LEGIONIS PRIME ITALICE."

I have much pleasure in presenting the coins to the Numismatic Collection of the Society.

MONDAY, 14th June 1869.

DAVID LAING, Esq., LL.D., For. Sec. S.A. Scot., in the Chair.

The following Gentleman was balloted for and elected a Fellow of the Society:—

JAMES BRYDON, M.D., Hawick.

On the motion of Mr STUART, Secretary, the Society resolved to record their sense of the great loss sustained by the death of Mr WILLIAM THOMSON M'CULLOCH, the late Keeper of the Museum, and the high esteem in which they held his services, his enthusiasm, and skill in the arrangement of the Museum, his unvarying courtesy to all, and his attention to the business of the Society.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks were voted to the Donors:—

(1.) By the Rev. JAMES M. JOASS, Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot., Golspie, Sutherlandshire, through Dr J. A. SMITH, Sec. S.A. Scot.

A Tyne of the horn of a rein-deer, 6 inches in length, and flattened at the base, where its extreme breadth is rather more than 2 inches. Frontal bone, showing part of horn core, anterior of part of lower jaw, leg bones, &c., of the *Bos longifrons*, and half of the lower jaw of a dog, also shells of the spiny cockle, and several chips of flint. Found in cutting drains on the *Morbhaich mor*, a sandy down on the sea coast, near Tain. (See the annexed Communication by Dr J. A. Smith.)

(2.) By ARTHUR MITCHELL, M.D., F.S.A. Scot., through Dr J. A. SMITH, Sec. S.A. Scot.

Horn of the left side of a rein-deer, with two projecting branches; found in a moss in the island of Rousay, Orkney. (See the Communication by Dr J. A. Smith.)

(3.) By Mr JAMES YOUNG, Liberton.

Nine Church Communion Tokens, in Lead; five of these are of Edinburgh, one the Canongate, and three of Leith. They are inscribed as follows:—

J. M. D. G. (Dean of Guild); *reverse*, Edinburgh Arms, date 1805; square-shaped.

ST CUTHBERT'S 1818; *reverse*, 1 COR. xi. 28, 29; hexagonal.

ST CUTHBERT'S 1824; similarly inscribed, also hexagonal.

NEW CHAPEL 1793; *reverse*, LUKE xxii. 19, 1 COR. xi. 28; oval.

LADY GLENORCHY'S CHAPEL; *reverse*, 1 COR. xi. 28, 29; star-shaped.

C. K. (Canongate Kirk) 1813; *reverse*, shield, displaying stag's head (the Canongate arms); square.

NORTH KIRK, LEITH; *reverse*, figure of the church, and date 1816.

S. L. K. (South Leith Kirk); *reverse*, shield defaced; round.

NEW KIRK, LEITH, 1776; *reverse*, blank, 1 COR. xi. 28; oblong, with curved edges.

(4.) By JAMES CUMINE of Rattray, Esq., Aberdeenshire.

Curiously-shaped (somewhat cylindrical) Urn, 5 inches high, and 5 inches diameter across the bottom. The smallest internal diameter of the vessel is at the middle of its height, where it is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across; it widens to the mouth, where it is 3 inches in diameter. There is a small hole pierced in the centre of the bottom, and three holes in the sides at unequal distances, and from an inch to an inch and a-half above the bottom of the urn. It was found in 1829, about 18 inches below the surface of the ground, and under a flat stone, near an earthwork styled the Castlehill of Rattray. (See Woodcut and Communication by John Stuart, Esq., LL.D., Sec. S.A. Scot.)

(5.) By Mr ANDREW CUNNINGHAME, Huntly Street.

Small, oval, brass, Ribbed Snuff-Box, with the figure of a ship engraved on the flat part of the lid, and inscribed below, RO^r PORTEOTS 1779.

(6.) By Mr JAMES FOGGO, Thistle Street.

Indian Dagger, single-edged sharp pointed blade, with thick back richly inlaid with gold, and handle made from the molar tooth of an elephant.

(7.) By ROBERT BROWN, Esq.

Implements of Bone, Deer Horn, &c., collected by the Donor, from old Esquimaux graves on the Duck Islands, North Greenland, lat. 73° N. :— consisting of a Hook, made from part of the horn of a rein-deer, for carrying or suspending a stone lamp; a Knife-Handle of bone, in which a blade of flint or iron has been fixed; a curved Bone Pin, about 7 inches in length, with flattened head; a polished Bone Implement and rounded Bone, with point—a fire-raising implement, worked like a drill, with the tinder wood, showing holes for twirling the bone in, so as to kindle the wood.

(8.) By the CANADIAN INSTITUTE, Toronto.

The Canadian Journal of Industry, Science, and Art. Vol. XII. No. 11. April, 1869.

(9.) By the ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF KENT.

Archæologia Cantiana. Vol. VII. 1868.

(10.) By GEORGE GODWIN, Esq., F.S.A., the Author.

Something about Masons' Marks in various countries. 4to.

There was exhibited a Bronze Tripod Pot, 11 inches in height, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the mouth, with inscription of raised letters on a belt round the body of the pot, recently purchased for the Museum.

The following purchases, made at the sale of the collection of the late ADAM SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., of Coulter, were also exhibited:—

1. A curious pair of Brass Snuffers, with winged head, &c., in high relief on the lid, stated to be of the reign of Henry VIII., and similar in character to those figured and described in Hone's Table Book, vol. iii. fol. 636.

2. A curious early Timepiece, with engraved floriated hour dial, with single hand, inscribed "Humphry Mills fecit."

3. Brass movement of an Eight-day Clock, inscribed on the dial, "Joseph Davis, London."

4. Brass Sun-Dial, engraved with hour circle, compass points, variation of the clock, &c., inscribed "George Jameson fecit."

5. A Copper Jug, 8 inches high, with handle, embossed in low relief, with floral pattern, and representations of greyhounds coursing and capturing hares. Stated to have been dug up in the formation of a railway in the south of England.

6. Three Pewter Measures, with handles.

One dug up from the bed of the Thames (1845), is cylindrical in shape, and 7 inches in height. It is inscribed round the middle, "John Wickins, at ye Cock and Crown in Montague Close, Southwarke." On the handle are stamped the letters $\begin{matrix} W \\ J & M \end{matrix}$

The second, which is also 7 inches in height, is inscribed round the middle "Thomas Hollinwood, at ye foxe and tap in Chick lane."

The third is 6 inches high, and has a lid, displaying four small circular stamps, two of which have the initials R. H. on either side of a bell. The other two consist, apparently, of the initials Z. S. interlaced, and a pink, or flower, on either side. Inside the lid is scratched the inscription, "Holborn B. Aug. 1843," probably where it was found.

7. A Flagellum of Iron Wire, 22 inches in length, made of a curiously wrought triangularly-formed chain 17 inches in length. It bears at its extremity a cluster, or scourge, of five pieces of chain, each 5 inches long, and having in the middle and at the ends a piece of wire twisted round a loop, so as to present four sharp points, three-eighths of an inch long, on opposite sides of the scourge, which thus contains forty of these spikes altogether.

8. An Indian torque-shaped Neck Ornament of tin, cut into ornamental patterns in the middle, and at each extremity, which terminates in a hook.

9. A richly ornamented Panel of Bronze, 9 inches long by $6\frac{1}{2}$ broad, embossed with a figure of Siva in high relief, six armed, and holding weapons of war in each of the six hands. The figure is surmounted by a canopy of cobra's heads. The necklace and girdle of the deity are of silver, and the anklets of gold. A silver border is let into the panel on two of its sides.

10. Indian Bronze Figure on pedestal, representing a deity seated in front of an open arched canopy, the whole being 5 inches high.

There were also exhibited three New Zealand War Implements, purchased for the Museum :—

11. Two of these were the flat oval-shaped war clubs called "patoo-patoos." One made from a fine grained black stone, and measuring 14 inches in length, including the short handle, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad in the flattest part of the blade; it has also a loop of flax, for fixing it to the wrist. The other is formed of the bone of a whale, and 19 inches in length. Part of the handle has been broken away.

12. The third implement, a club made of a hard heavy wood, is 16 inches in length by 6 inches in breadth, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in thickness at the heavy end, from which it slopes away to the handle in slightly curved lines, the hilt and the striking end being of the same form. The edges are ornamented with a saw-tooth pattern scratched into the wood, and the handle has attached to it a loop of cord for the hand, and a wrapping of cotton thread interlaced, and twisted into pendants.

The following Communications were read :—