

## VIII.

NOTE ON A BRONZE PATELLA, HAVING AN ANGLO-SAXON INSCRIPTION  
ON THE HANDLE, FOUND AT FRIAR'S CARSE, DUMFRIESSHIRE.  
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In the "Archæologia," vol. x., will be found an engraving of a culinary utensil of Roman form—neither more nor less than a saucepan. It was found many years ago at Friar's Carse in Dumfriesshire, and therefore the judgment of Scottish Antiquaries is concerned that it should be more fully published than in the meagre notice published with the engraving in the "Archæologia."

Above all, I wish to direct attention to the inscribed handle, on which is a word which has been taken for the name of the fabricator.

Any one accustomed to the study of Teutonic languages (such as the early and the modern German, the Anglo-Saxon), will perceive that the word in question is Teutonic, and, in fact, Scots Saxon or Northumbrian Anglo-Saxon, and is not a name, but significant of the owner's business or calling—that of a *cook* or *head-cook*.

Roman capitals were used by the Anglo-Saxons on their coins, and were especially in favour with ecclesiastics. There is nothing against the Saxonism of this label from its Roman capitals. Nevertheless it has one Saxon character which has been misread as P, but which is P, th.

The word is ANSIEPHARR. *Siethan* or *soothan* is to seethe or boil, in German *sieden*. *Ansiethan* is to boil on or continuously. *Harr*, or *harra*, Germ. *Herr*, is a master or head-man. The whole word means head-cook or master-cook. Nor can we escape the inference that the label is Saxon, though the pan may be Roman, by insisting that the P is P and not th. That won't help us. The word *siep* or *ansiep* is equally Saxon, being no other than the root of to *sip*, to *sipe* or soak, and of the noun *sip* and *sipper*, all most orthodox culinary vocables.

If the letter was really P, which it is not, the word would mean chief bread-soaker and porridge-helper. Boiled bread and milk is still a popular food.

There is no way out of this being a Saxon label.

Roman forms of culinary utensils are common to this day in the south of France and in Italy. Was this pan made in the south of Europe, and imported, or was it ancient Roman? In either case it was labelled by the Saxons in North Briton, and probably used in a convent kitchen. To suppose that the label was there in Roman times, which seems to be the idea of Mr Albert Way, whose attention I directed to it, would only add hopeless difficulty to the problem.

Any one can see that the word is neither Roman, nor of any known barbaric tongue of Roman times, except Teutonic. But a German cook in Roman employ, writing his calling *in German* upon a saucepan, would be a discovery enough to stir the curiosity of every professor beyond the Rhine. This is the most extravagant hypothesis of all, and I can hardly conceive it to have been implied, though it would necessarily follow if Mr Way's opinion were adopted that the label as well as the utensil is Roman.