

PART III.—NOTICES OF THE POTTERY, BRONZE, AND OTHER OBJECTS
FOUND DURING THE EXCAVATIONS AT CASTLECARY. BY JOSEPH
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Pottery.—The pottery found at Castlecary is of the usual character, consisting of red Samian ware, dark grey and blackish ware, with a mixture of soft red ware, and the usual coarse thick whitish or whitish-brown ware of which the larger-sized vessels are made, such as amphoræ and mortaria, and a quantity of red tiles.

The red Samian ware was found in considerable abundance, the pieces mostly small, although in one or two cases it was possible to join them so as to show the form of the vessel. About sixty of these fragments belonged to decorated bowls of the common form, with a roll moulding round the lip, and the festoon and tassel ornament under a plain band about an inch in width underneath the rim, the curving side of the bowl divided into panels with straight edges, or into circular medallions, filled with figure subjects or other devices.

The largest piece (fig. 30) indicates a bowl 7 inches in diameter and over 4 inches in depth, ornamented under the festoon and tassel

border by a series of panels divided by crimped mouldings and narrowing towards the bottom. The panels are alternately 2 inches and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide at top, the broad ones being filled by a medallion containing two running beasts, and the narrow ones by a caryatid figure.

Some of the other fragments (fig. 31) show figure subjects of various kinds, but in no case sufficiently entire to make out the complete pattern.

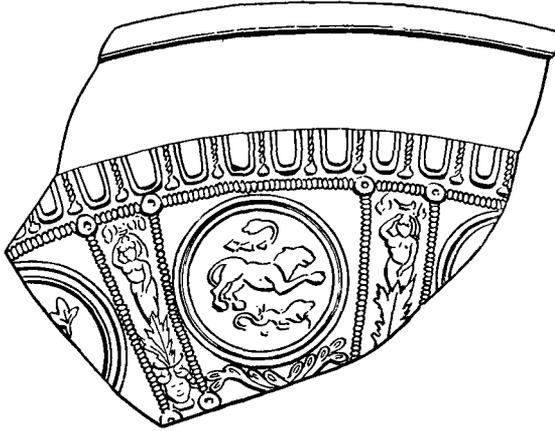


Fig. 30. Portion of Samian Ware Bowl found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

Two pieces of similar ware, thinner and softer in texture, are parts of a more globular vessel, with the bulge of its sides covered with a peculiar stamped ornamentation which has somewhat the appearance of nicks, about half an inch in length, taken out of the clay with a knife, set closely together in parallel rows. They are shown at the bottom of fig. 31.

There are one or two pieces of the wide shallow basins of thin red ware with the lip curving outward, and ornamented only on the outward curving part of the lip by long-stalked leaves in relief as in fig. 32.

Of the plain cups and beakers, with sloping or bulging sides, there

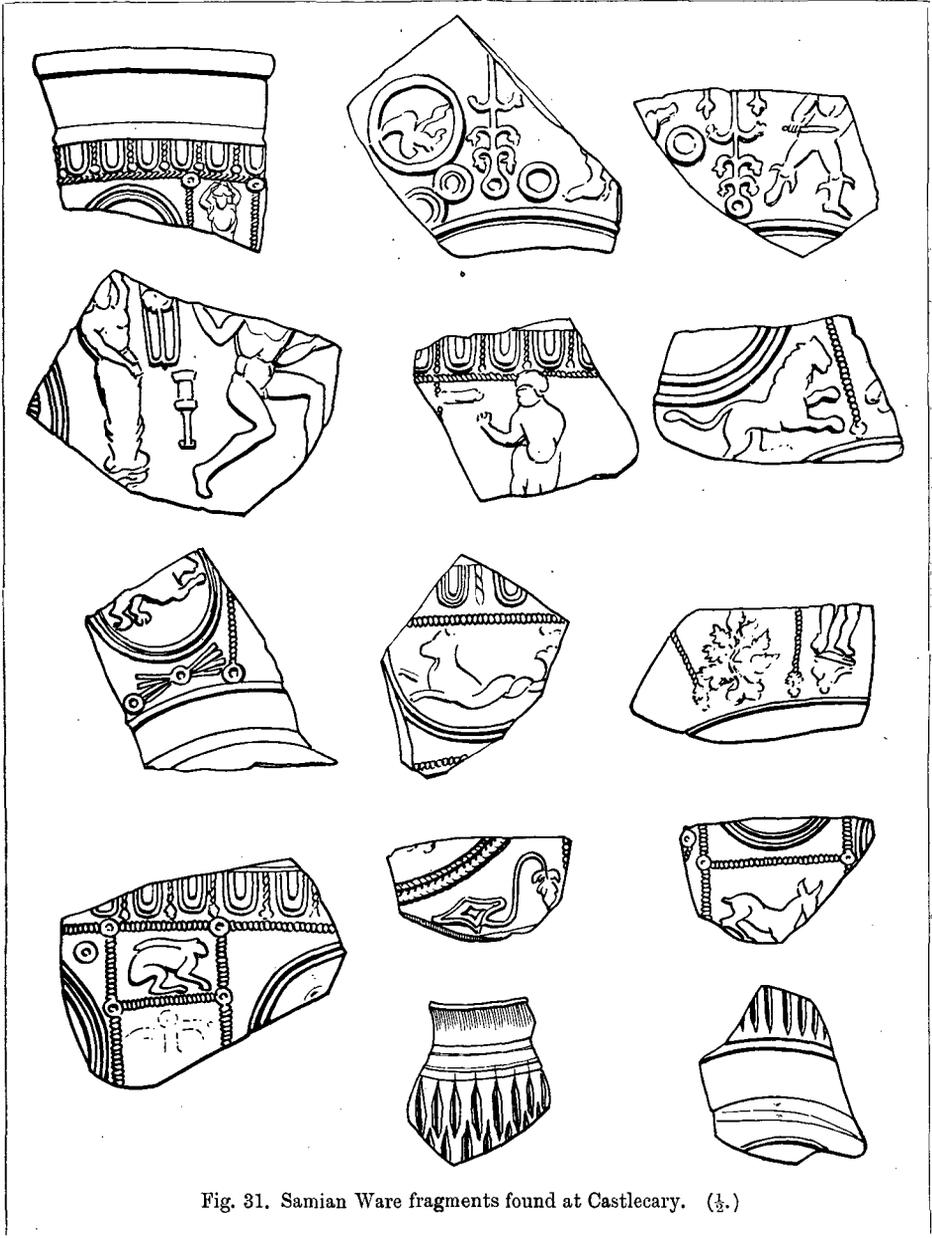


Fig. 31. Samian Ware fragments found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

are several sizes, from 3 inches in depth and 5 inches in diameter at the mouth. Some of those with bulging sides have flat or curved projecting ledges round the outside under the brim.

One vessel with a broad-brimmed bottle-neck occurred.

Only three of the beaker class of vessels bore potter's marks.

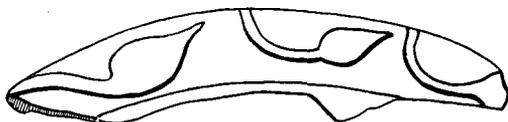


Fig. 32. Portion of Ornamented Lip of Samian Ware Vessel found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

A lamp of Samian ware (fig. 33), which has been long in the Museum, is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, with a nozzle flattened on the top and projecting $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in front, and a perforated handle $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in width and rising $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches from the back. The upper surface has a deep concavity with



Fig. 33. Lamp of Samian Ware from Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{4}$.)

the hole for the oil in the centre, and is ornamented round the border with a band of the festoon ornament, without the tassel between the festoons, so common on the Samian ware bowls, and on the bottom the potter's mark I. FABRICMAS. It is said to have been found during the excavations for the railway in 1841.

The unknown author of the description of the Roman wall (along which he walked in 1679) printed in the *Historical Manuscripts*

*Commission Reports*¹ was shown a Roman lamp dug up here by Mr Bayley of Castlecary House. Gordon also mentions a lamp of brass "adorned with variety of engravings" as having been found here, but which he did not himself see.²

Of the shallow basin-shaped vessels of bluish-black ware, with sloping sides, ornamented on the exterior by a network of burnished lines crossing each other diagonally, there are many pieces, but only in a few cases do they go together so far as to show the form and size of the vessel. Three with thickish rims bevelled to the outward side have had a diameter of over 6 inches and a depth of about 4 inches. One of about the same diameter, but shallower, has been mended in four places by clamping the broken pieces together with leaden clamps, two of which are still in place, the others having decayed to such an extent as to leave the holes on each side of the fracture vacant. The jars of the same bluish-black ware similarly ornamented on the exterior are the most numerous of the various forms represented. They are flat-bottomed, with sides sloping upwards to a rounded shoulder, and a rather wide mouth with an everted lip. Some are of an extremely hard bluish-black paste, with a glistening surface, the scored or burnished lines on which form a wide or narrow network, crossing each other diagonally from the shoulder to the bottom. Others are of coarse paste with a rougher surface, inclining to grey, and sometimes to a red colour. Some of these are covered over the exterior surface with a hard coating of soot as if they had been used as culinary vessels. There are a few bottoms of jars from $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter of a coarse and friable reddish paste; but though the pieces of the sides show them to have been of the same bulging shape as those of the black ware, there are none that can be reconstructed to show the depth.

A rough hand-made shallow vessel (fig. 34) about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter in the bottom, with nearly straight sides half an inch thick and an inch and a half in depth, has three holes in the middle of the bottom placed a

¹ *Report* No. XIII., Appendix (Portland MSS., vol. ii.), p. 57.

² *Itiner. Sept.*, p. 47.

little more than a quarter of an inch apart in the form of a triangle. They are about a quarter of an inch in diameter at the surface and narrow to the bottom, but do not pierce through to the outside. Round them in a circle, about half an inch from the side and half an inch apart, are seven holes of about the same width driven through to the outside. The inner surface of the side of the vessel is divided into panels about an inch or more in width by perpendicular indentations of over an eighth of an inch in width and the same in depth, and in each panel there is a

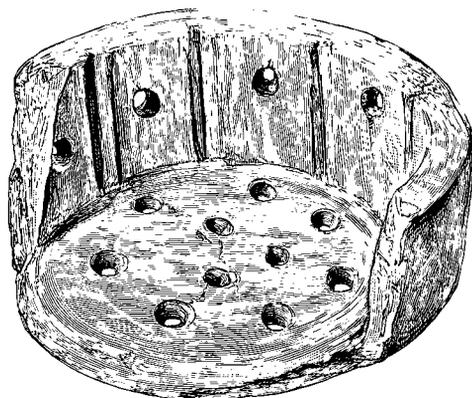


Fig. 34. Portion of Shallow Vessel of dark ware found at Castlecary. ($\frac{2}{3}$.)

round hole bored through from the outside to the inside. These holes are of the same width as those in the bottom of the vessel.

Some pieces of black ware from Castlecary, found during the construction of the railway and preserved in the Museum, are portions of the ornate vessels of extremely thin and light fabric which have their sides pinched inwards so as to form indented oval hollows recurring at intervals all round the circumference, and extending from the shoulder to the base, like the one found at Camelon.¹ Another is ornamented with rows of circular spots formed of a dark slip, applied after the burnishing of the surface.

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. p. 388, fig. 18.

Of the coarser soft whitish and greyish ware there are many fragments of amphoræ and mortaria of the usual kinds, and two pieces of the finer soft ware are parts of the rather uncommon variety of wide-mouthed jars with straight collars and a frilled projecting ledge round the shoulder. There is also a neck of a bottle-necked jar of soft grey ware with part of the loop-handle remaining, and a fragment of a loop-handle of a larger vessel of soft whitish ware, twisted like a rope.

Of this soft whitish paste there are also pieces of a very thin ware, dark-coloured on both exterior and interior surfaces, the exterior being sometimes plain and sometimes roughened all over with gritty particles sifted to a uniform size and applied with the slip.

Potters' Stamps.—The following is a list of the potters' stamps occurring at Castlecary :—

CINTVSMVS · F

CRACV · F

CVDCVNII

ALBINI · M

AESTIVI · M

PRISCVS · F

L FABRICMAS on the bottom of a lamp.

MMCSV on the handle of an amphora.

None of these stamps have appeared at any of the stations previously excavated, and only two of them occur in the Castlecary list given by Wilson in the *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 70. It is also noticeable that there are no examples at Castlecary of the Samian bowls of the early period (latter part of first century) like those found at Camelon.

Glass.—The amount of glass recovered was small, and consisted chiefly of portions of bottles of bluish-green glass of the square moulded form so commonly found on Roman sites. One, of which five pieces have been put together showing the shape of the lower part, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches square ; but only two necks, and none of the reeded handles so character-

istic of these bottles, were found. One portion of a handle 2 inches long by 1 inch in breadth, of a slightly clearer glass, may belong to a different form of vessel.

A portion of a bottle with fluted sides, of clear glass with a slightly greenish tinge, measures 4 inches by 3, showing an indication of the flattened curve of the bottom at one side.

A bottle neck with lip and handle of light-green glass is already in the Museum, having been presented by the Earl of Zetland in 1852.

A portion of a flat rim of a vessel of clear glass, of oval shape, is $3\frac{1}{2}$

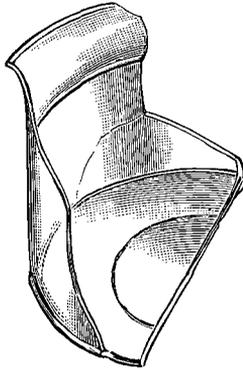


Fig. 35. Portion of Clear Glass Vessel found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

inches in length and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in breadth, the glass being fully $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch in thickness, and the curve indicating a large circumference. Another small piece of a similar rim seems to belong to a different vessel.

Two pieces of an oval vessel of clear glass, with a moulding above which is a band of clear glass, while below the moulding the surface is obscured by what seems to be the remains of a reddish pigment, also indicate a vessel of considerable circumference and more than 4 inches in depth.

A circular flat-bottomed vessel of thin clear glass (fig. 35), 4 inches in diameter and $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in height, with straight sides and a slightly everted lip, has a double lathe-ground hollow moulding round the lower part of the side, and a similar single hollow moulding an inch below

the brim, and another immediately underneath the everted lip. A single lathe-ground moulding 2 inches in diameter is on the outside of the flat bottom. The thickness of the glass in the bottom is about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch, but towards the brim it becomes less than $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch. Portions of similar vessels of thin clear glass with slightly everted lips and lathe-ground hollow mouldings were found at Lyne.

Half a dozen small pieces of flat window-glass of the usual character were found.

A small fragment of a bracelet of greenish glass paste was also found. Fragments of glass bracelets occurred at Camelon.

Two small cubical tesserae, one of greenish glass and the other of blue glass, were found in the apsed building, probably indicating the presence of mosaic flooring.



Fig. 36. Intaglio representing Jupiter (?) and eagle, found at Castlecary. (†.)

A small button-shaped disc of black glass, convex on the upper side and slightly concave on the lower side, similar to several discs of different colours which occurred at Camelon, was also found here. These discs are frequently found on Roman sites, and, though their purpose is not definitely known, it has been conjectured that they may have been employed as counters in some game.

An intaglio in clear glass paste, of oval shape, the face convex, and measuring about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, has a figure of a female standing, loosely draped from the waist, and holding in the right hand an apple or pomegranate, and in the left a dish of similar fruit. Though found among the earth thrown out of the excavation, it appears to be modern.

Another intaglio (fig. 36), slightly smaller, and cut in carnelian, repre-

sents Jupiter (?) seated, with an eagle standing in front. The style of the cutting leaves no room for doubt of the antiquity of this gem.

Three of the ribbed melon-shaped beads of blue porcelain paste, so commonly found on Roman sites, are respectively $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, and $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch in diameter.



Fig. 37. Bronze Tube found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

Bronze.—The bronze articles found were few and unimportant. Among them is a tube (fig. 37) rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in diameter and 7 inches in length, encircled on the exterior by parallel mouldings, and terminating at one end in a cup-shaped expansion like the mouth-



Fig. 38. Fibulae of Bronze found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{4}$.)

piece of a trumpet. The perforation in the centre of the cup-shaped expansion is only $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch in diameter, the diameter of the perforation throughout the tube being fully $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch.

Two fibulae of bronze were found. They are shown in fig. 38. One is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length and the other $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Both have the coil of the spring, but the pins are gone.

An oblong rectangular mounting with sides rounded upwards, and a wide hollow moulding on the top flanked by a narrow moulding on either side, and having a round hole about $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch in diameter in the centre, apparently for the fastening nail or stud.

Lead.—A leaden weight, circular, with flattened upper and under sides, much oxidised, weighing 4285.6 grains, or slightly over $9\frac{3}{4}$ oz. avoirdupois.

A leaden ring $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in depth, the opening

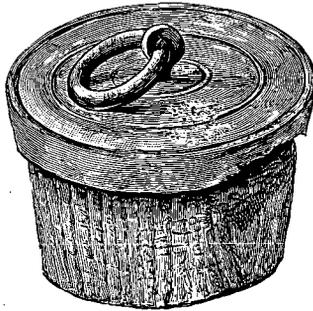


Fig. 39. Wooden Bung with Bronze Cap and Ring found at Castlecary. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

1 inch in diameter on the upper side, widening to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches on the lower side.

A piece of run lead $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, of triangular section, with two projections on the flat side, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart.

Wood.—A rather curious article in wood (fig. 39) is a bung of some kind of coniferous wood, well cut out of the wood across the fibre, and measuring $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter at the top and barely 2 inches across the bottom, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth. The top has a well-made cover of bronze, ornamented on the upper side with concentric circles, and fastened to the wood by a loop with a double tang driven through a hole in the centre, and in the loop a bronze ring $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in diameter.

A spatula, apparently of oak, 9 inches in length, shaped like a cricket-bat but having the handle longer in proportion to the flattened part, was found in the refuse-pit. The other wooden objects are a portion of a rounded stake of hard wood, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, cut to a point with an axe, and partly cut across from both sides at the other end and then broken off; and a piece of a mortised plank of soft wood about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in thickness.

Iron.—A considerable number of fragments of iron implements were found, but for the most part in such a condition of oxidation, and so broken, that it is impossible to make out their particular purposes. There were large nails, and holdfasts of various forms and dimensions, and in one case an implement $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, which seems to have been a socketed gouge, with a blade about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width.

Leather.—A quantity of remains of leather shoes, sandals, etc., was recovered from the refuse-pit and the ditch at the east side of the fort. Some of these are soles of large size, the largest $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by 4 inches in greatest breadth, studded with iron nails. Others are sandals with parts of the thongs still attached. One with a smooth soft sole measures $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by 5 inches in greatest width. Others again are so small and slender that they must have been worn by women and children. Some of these are very elaborately ornamented, the upper leathers being cut in open work or stamped with lines of impressions in various ways. One shoe which is sufficiently entire to show the shape, is $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, 3 inches across the widest part, and 2 inches across the narrowest, widening to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the heel. The sole has been studded with iron nails or "tackets," thirty of which form a row at equal distances all round the margin. Within this marginal row are other nineteen, arranged not at random but on a systematic scheme. There is a triplet close together in the heel, then a line of three equally spaced along the centre of the narrow part of the sole, another triplet at the commencement of the broad part, and a longish oval with a single one in the centre on the fore part of the sole.

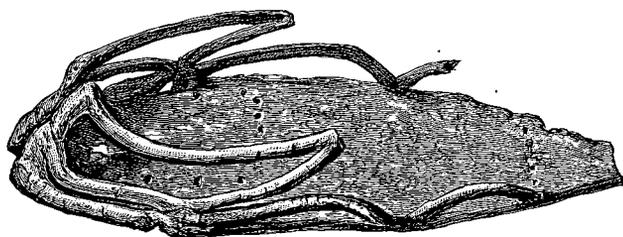
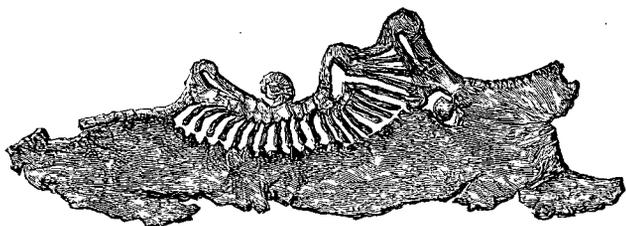
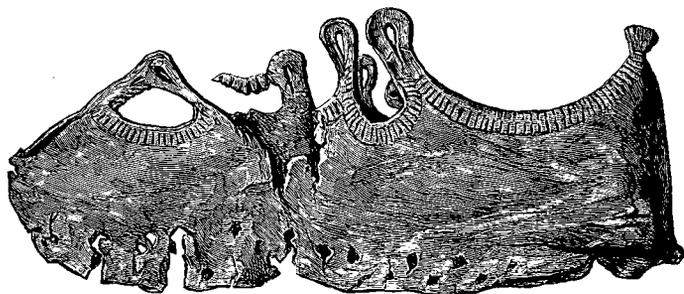
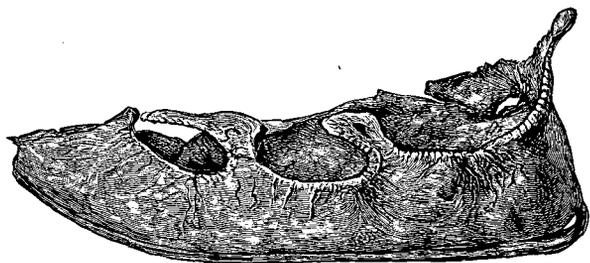


Fig. 40. Shoes and Sandal of Leather found at Castlecary. (1.)

Stone.—The only implements of stone met with were two spindle whorls: one a flat disc $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in thickness, flat on its upper and under sides, which are ornamented with radial lines arranged round the central hole, which is $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch in diameter; the other barrel-shaped, about an inch in greatest diameter and $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch in depth, the central hole $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch in diameter.

Several inscribed stones, altars, and tablets are on record as having been found in Castlecary or in its immediate neighbourhood:—

1. An altar, 2 feet 5 inches in height by 1 foot 1 inch square on the base, with a focus between two broken volutes on the top, the sides plain, and the front inscribed—

FORTVNAE
VEXILLA
TIONES
LEG. II. AVG
LEG. VI. VIC
P.S. P.L.L.

“To Fortune; Vexillations of the Second Legion, the August, and the Sixth Legion, the Victorious. . . .”

The letters in the last line are variously read and differently interpreted, but they evidently indicate a mere formula of dedication.

The altar is said to have been discovered about 1770 by the workmen who were making a quarry of the ruins of the fort to supply stones for the Forth and Clyde Canal. The spot where it was found is described as at the east end, where were the foundations of circular buildings. It was presented to the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, by Sir Laurence Dundas, and is described and figured in Dr James Macdonald's *Account of the Roman Stones in the Hunterian Museum* (1897), p. 73 and Pl. x.; Stuart's *Caledonia Romana* (2nd ed., 1852), p. 345 and Pl. xiv.; Roy's *Military Antiquities*, Pl. xxxix.; Hubner's *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vol. vii., No. 1093.

2. An altar of small size, now lost, which was known before 1682, its inscription being given by Christopher Irving in his *Historia Scotia Nomenclatura*, published in Edinburgh on 1st January of that year, as noticed by Alex. Gibb, F.S.A. Scot., in the *Scottish Antiquary*, vol. xv. p. 202. Mr Gibb also quotes a passage from Sir Robert Sibbald's MS. collections in the Advocates' Library, in which he states that his copy of the figure and inscription of the altar in his additions to Gibson's *Camden* (1695), p. 1102, was obtained from the Earl of Perth. He gives a figure of it in his *Historical Inquiries* (1708); he refers to it as "yet to be seen near to Comernald, the residence of the Earl of Wigton"; and in his *History of Linlithgowshire* (1710) he refers to it as "found near to Castle-cary." Horsley (1732) had the stone copied at Cumbernauld by permission of the Earl of Wigton; and though he gives the figure in two pieces, and says that it is manifest they are not the same altar, as "the dimensions don't agree," he also mentions that the two pieces evidently give the complete inscription as recorded by Sir Robert Sibbald. Hubner leaves the matter uncertain until the two fragments are again compared with each other. What seems tolerably certain is that the altar (if the two fragments belong to each other) was dedicated to the Deæ Matres by a vexillation of Brittones in the twentieth legion.

It is described in Sibbald's additions to Gibson's *Camden*, with a figure, p. 1102; in Horsley's *Brittania Romana* (Scotland, figs. xx. and xxi.); and in Hubner's *Corpus Inscript. Lat.*, vol. vii. No. 1094.

3. An altar of freestone, 20 inches in height by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches square at the base, was found to the westward of Castlecary in 1841, and preserved by the late Mr John Buchanan. The place where it was found is not indicated more exactly than by the statement in Stuart's *Caledonia Romana*, that it was found "not far from the spot where the wheat was found in 1771." This discovery of "nearly a hundred quarters of wheat quite charred and black" is described as having been made in the year mentioned, "to the west of the station and immediately beyond the highway to Stirling."

This altar is now in the National Museum (*Proceedings*, vol. xxvii. p. 8). The inscription seems to have been tampered with, the letters being subsequently painted black :—

DEO
MERCVRIO
MILITES · LEG · VI
VICTRICIS · PIE · F
ED · ET · SIGILLW
CIVES · ITALICI
ET · NORICI
V · S · L · L · M

This altar has been described and figured by Stuart (*Caledonia Romana*, p. 349 and Pl. xiv.), who has some variations from the above transcription. It is also described by Hubner (*Corpus Inscript. Lat.*, vol. vii. No. 1095).

4. An altar, 34 inches in height, the inscription much defaced. It was found in a thicket, choked with briars, close to the rivulet called the Red Burn, which flows past the fort. The inscription cannot be read with certainty, but the dedication is presumed to be to the god Silvanus.

This altar was formerly in the possession of the late Mr John Buchanan, and is now in the National Museum (*Proceedings*, vol. xxviii. p. 8). It has been described and figured by Stuart (*Caledonia Romana*, p. 350 and Pl. xiv. fig. 2), and is described by Hubner (*Corpus Inscript. Lat.*, vol. vii. No. 1096).

5. The upper part of an altar, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, and 8 inches in thickness, with patera and volutes on the top, presented to the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, in 1771, by Sir Laurence Dundas. It is said to have been found at Castlecary by the workmen employed on the Union Canal. All that remains of the inscription is the first word, DEAE.

It is described and figured in Dr James Macdonald's *Roman Stones in the Hunterian Museum*, p. 75 and Pl. xi. fig. 2; in Stuart's *Caledonia Romana*, p. 345 and Pl. xiv. fig. 9; and is described by Hubner (*Corpus Inscript. Lat.*, vol. vii. No. 1097).

6. The lower part of an altar, containing only the initial letters which form the customary formula recording a vow paid cheerfully.

It is described and figured by Gordon, p. 57 and Pl. x.; Horsley, p. 202 and (Scotland) Pl. xxiii.; Stuart (*Caledonia Romana*), p. 346, Pl. xiv. fig. 7; and Hubner (*Corpus Inscript. Lat.*, vol. vii. No. 1098).

7. The lower part of an altar, bearing the letters H BAT, seen by Gordon at Castlecary. Horsley did not see it in Baron Clerk's collection, though it is stated by Mr Gibb in the *Scottish Antiquary*, on the authority of the *Bib. Top. Brit.*, vol. iii., that Sir John Clerk had it in 1726.

A figure of it is given in Nicholl's *Topographia Britannica*, vol. iii. p. 239.

8. The upper part of an altar with three lines of an inscription of which only the words MILITES VEX III are given as legible.

It is described and figured by Gordon (*Iter.*, p. 57 and Pl. xv.) and by Stuart (*Cal. Rom.*, p. 346 and Pl. xiv.)

9. A slab measuring 3 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 9 inches, found on the wall near Castlecary, is inscribed within a triple moulding:—

IMP. CAES. T. AEL. ANT
AVG. PIO. P. P.
COH · I · TVNGRO
RVM FECIT ∞

It is preserved in the Hunterian Museum and described and figured by Dr Macdonald (*Roman Stones*, p. 72 and Pl. xi.), and also by Stuart (*Cal. Rom.*, p. 347 and Pl. xv.) and by Hubner (*Corpus Inscript. Lat.*, vol. vii. No. 1099).