

I.

A ROMAN INSCRIPTION FOUND AT JEDBURGH, AND SOME ROMAN SCULPTURES RECENTLY PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. BY GEORGE MACDONALD, C.B., F.B.A., D.LITT., LL.D., F.S.A.Scot.

1.

INSCRIPTION FROM JEDBURGH.

The operations of a preservative character which have been so admirably carried out at Jedburgh Abbey under the supervision of the Ancient Monuments Department of H.M. Office of Works, have had the incidental result of bringing to light a very interesting relic of the Roman occupation of southern Scotland. On 24th July last, while clearing a corner of the building of an accumulation of débris, the workmen came upon a flat stone, the surface of which was covered with partially effaced lettering. Mr C. R. Peers, who happened to arrive next day on a tour of inspection, at once recognised it as a Roman inscription, and subsequently wrote me suggesting that it would repay a more careful examination than he had had time to give it. Acting on this suggestion, Mr A. O. Curle and I visited Jedburgh together a week or so later, when Mr Menzies and the other representatives of the Office of Works took all manner of pains to help us, moving the stone freely to enable us to scrutinise it in various lights and to secure photographs under the best possible conditions.

The block proved to be 19 inches long by 17 inches broad and 6 inches deep. The letters, which are not very artistically cut, are, as a rule, about 2 inches high. The reading which Mr Curle and I brought away with us was virtually identical with that shown in fig. 1, an illustration which I owe to the kindness of Mr R. G. Collingwood, Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. It is reproduced from a drawing which Mr Collingwood made in autumn after taking a rubbing. All the way down the right-hand side and again at the bottom the letters are indistinct through abrasion, and such signs of wear may indicate that the stone had been utilised by the builders of the Abbey as part of the pavement. Originally it had been an altar, as is proved by the appearance, in the last line, of the familiar formula, V · S · L · L · M. The name of the divinity (or divinities) to whom the vow was paid would naturally stand first. But there is no room for anything of the kind on the stone as it is to-day.¹ The inscription is, therefore, incomplete. As the top is neatly enough squared off, we

¹ The markings at the top in Mr Collingwood's drawing may be the remains of the lower end of letters.

may reasonably conclude that the altar has been deliberately mutilated by being reduced in length, in order to adapt it for its secondary purpose. Possibly it was at the same time reduced in depth. That, however, is less certain. Some of the perfectly preserved altars in the Society's collection are no deeper.

If the name of the divinity must remain unknown, the identity of his votaries is, fortunately, not open to question. The altar was set up by the First Cohort of Vardulli, an auxiliary regiment which long helped to garrison Britain, and by its then commanding officer, G. Quintus Severus,

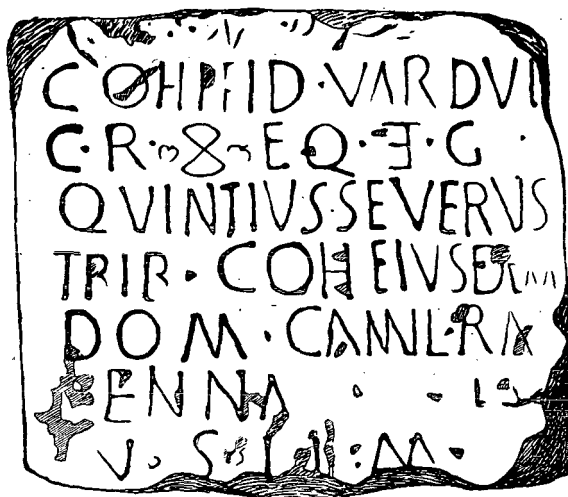


Fig. 1.

whom we now hear of for the first time. Their names and titles occupy lines 1 to 4, and are set forth in perfectly straightforward fashion. The two lines that follow present a more thorny problem. The fact that they begin with the word **DOM(O)** makes it clear that they record the birthplace of Quintus. Normally, one would expect a town-name to come next. Accordingly, when I first saw the stone, I was disposed to read the immediately succeeding letters as **CAMVL**, and to see in them the same abbreviation of the Roman name of Colchester as is found on some coins of Cunobelinus, the Cymbeline of Shakespeare. That, however, left the remainder of line 5, as well as the whole of the partially obliterated line 6, hanging in the air without any very intelligible sense. In my perplexity I turned for help to Mr J. G. C. Anderson of Christ Church, Lecturer in Roman Epigraphy in the University of Oxford, whose acumen speedily supplied a satisfactory solution of the puzzle.

Mr Anderson found precisely the same difficulty in the reading CAMVL as I had done. But, after he had tried various alternatives, it occurred to him that the ligatured letters might not be MV at all, but MI. The outcome, of course, was CAMIL, and with that the clue was in his hands. CAMIL is a quite regular abbreviation of *Camilia*, the name of one of the *tribus rusticæ* which were brought into being when the Roman franchise was extended beyond the city. And one of the best-known of the towns assigned to the *tribus Camilia* was RAVENNA. The arrangement of the words seems at first sight a little odd. But there are other provincial inscriptions which exhibit precisely the same peculiarity—*domo* followed by the name of the tribe and then by the name of the town.¹ Mr Anderson's suggestion thus makes excellent sense. It also agrees perfectly with the markings on the stone. Mr Collingwood's drawing, it is true, shows no trace whatever of a V. On the other hand, in certain lights there is discernible on the stone itself, immediately to the left of the E, something which I find noted in my own first copy as l. Though the indication has apparently been too faint to produce any impression in a rubbing, even under Mr Collingwood's expert hands, it has not been faint enough to escape the camera. It can be made out quite distinctly in fig. 2. But it is not really an l. Comparison with the letter almost immediately below reveals it as the remnant of a V, the right limb of which has been rendered by a vertical stroke.

We are now in a position to expand and translate what is left of the inscription:—“[.] *coh(ors) p(rima) fid(a) Vardul(lorum) c(ivium) R(omanorum) miliaria eq(uitata) et G(aius) Quintius Severus trib(unus) coh(ortis) eiusdem dom(o) Camil(ia) Ravenna v(otum) s(olverunt) l(æti) l(ibentes) m(erito).*” That is to say, “[To] the First Loyal Cohort of Vardulli, Roman citizens, a thousand strong, including a complement of cavalry, and Gaius Quintius Severus, their tribune, a native of Ravenna, a town of the Camilian tribe, paid their vow gladly, willingly, and rightly.”

The regiment that figures here is known from a military diploma to have been in Britain at least as early as A.D. 98. How much earlier we cannot say. At one time it lay at Castlecary on the Scottish Wall.² At another—probably before the Antonine advance into Scotland—it was

¹ *CIL.* viii. 3028, from Lambæsis, has *Domo Collina Cibessos*, and *CIL.* iii., Suppl. 7289, at Athens, has *Domo Quirina Scupos*; while from *Moesia Inferior* (*Ibid.*, 12489) we get the variant *Natus Fabia Anquira* (=Ancyra). These instances do not exhaust Mr Anderson's parallels. Probably in such cases the name of the tribe should be regarded as part of the designation of the town. In support of this view, Mr Anderson cites *C. Iulio C. F. Longino, domo Voltinia Philippis Macedonia, veteranus leg. viii. Aug., deductus ab divo Augusto Vespasiano Quirina Reate etc.* (*CIL.* ix., 4684; Dessau, *Inscr. Sel.* 2460).

² *Roman Wall in Scotland*, pp. 344 f. I may take this opportunity of saying that Mr R. G. Collingwood reads the name on the altar described there as NEPTVNO, not SILVANO.

quartered at Lanchester.¹ But the fort with which its fortunes were most closely identified was Bremenium or High Rochester in Northumberland, one of the eastern outliers of Hadrian's Wall. The large number of inscriptions which it has left there² shows that this must have been its station for many years. It may have moved to Bremenium when it left Castlecary. It was certainly at Bremenium as late as the reign of Gordian (A.D. 238-43).³ The new Jedburgh inscription suggests that at some period prior to the abandonment of southern Scotland, *circa* A.D. 180, the garrison of Bremenium may have been called upon to furnish a

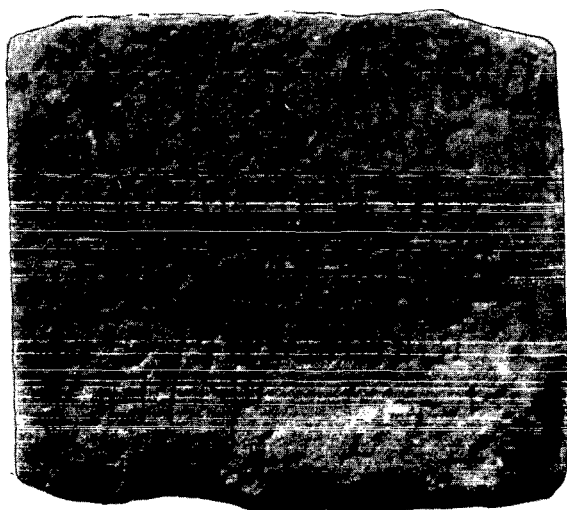


Fig. 2.

detachment to hold a small post on the road to Trimontium. In this respect the other inscription from Jedburgh Abbey,⁴ discovered a good many years ago, provides a curious analogy. The regiment of Rætian spearmen (*Ræti gæsati*), which it mentions, was at Habitancium or Risingham, midway between Hadrian's Wall and Bremenium, in the reign of Caracalla—probably, therefore, for some time before or after or both. It looks as if a detachment of Rætians⁵ had relieved a detachment of Vardulli, or a detachment of Vardulli a detachment of Rætians, in the small post to which I have referred.

¹ *CIL.* vii. 440.² *Ibid.*, vii. 1030, 1039, 1043, 1045, etc.³ *Ibid.*, vii. 1030.⁴ *Ephem. Epigr.*, iv. 691 (p. 204), and vii. 1092 (p. 333); *Proceedings*, 1911-2, p. 483.⁵ The inscription speaks definitely of a detachment (*vevillatio*).

One cannot help wondering where the post was. Hitherto it has been customary to assume that the Rætian altar was brought from Cappuck. That is, of course, possible. But those who know the locality best are inclined to doubt whether it would have been worth while to carry stones so far, when so much excellent building-material was available close at hand. It may be that both dedications really belong to a fort of which no trace now survives, but which once commanded the crossing of the Teviot.

2.

SCULPTURED STONES FROM CROY.

The two sculptured stones which I propose to notice briefly appear to have been dug out of the ruins of the Roman fort at Croy about the end of the eighteenth or the beginning of the nineteenth century. For more than a hundred years they have been built into the wall of the farmhouse of Nether Croy. The house was recently pulled down, and Carron Company, to whom the property belonged, have kindly presented them to the Society for preservation in the National Museum. They were described to the Society of Antiquaries of London as long ago as 1826 by a Somersetshire clergyman, the Rev. John Skinner, who had seen them when he was visiting Scotland in the preceding autumn, and had made drawings.¹ They are also discussed in my own book on *The Roman Wall in Scotland*,² where attention is directed to certain inaccuracies in Skinner's sketches. The photographs from which the illustrations in *The Roman Wall* were reproduced had, however, to be taken under difficult conditions. Since the stones reached Edinburgh the thick coat of paint with which they were covered has been carefully removed. A much more satisfactory examination has thus become possible, and some interesting details have been revealed.

Fig. 3 is a small stone about 14½ inches high and 13½ inches broad.³ Originally it must have been somewhat larger. The rough edge along the bottom is suggestive of mutilation, and the tenant of 1826 told Skinner that, when he first saw the sculpture, there was an inscription beneath, but that the masons had hewn this away in order to fit the block into its place in the wall of the farmhouse. The portion that remains shows three soldiers standing to front, side by side. Each of the two towards the left has a *pilum* in his right hand, and supports upon the ground, with his left, an oblong, semi-cylindrical shield—the

¹ *Archæologia*, xxi. (1827) pp. 455 ff.

² Pp. 359 f.

³ The slight difference between these dimensions and those given in *The Roman Wall* (p. 360) is due to the measurements having been in the latter case taken while the stone was still in the wall and its outline not clearly distinguishable.

scutum of the Roman legionary. In the centre of the shield is something that may be merely a boss (*umbo*), but may possibly be a Gorgon's head upon a raised rectangular background. Over the top hangs the soldier's helmet, suspended apparently by the chin-strap. The figure on the right also has a *scutum*, but he carries it on his left arm, as when in action, and instead of a *pilum* he holds a drawn sword in his right hand. His helmet is visible in front of his body, either hung round his neck or (more probably) grasped in the fingers of his left hand. All three wear



Fig. 3.

the ordinary legionary tunic. The sculptor has shrunk from any attempt to indicate the cuirass realistically, and his representation of what is presumably the *sagum* or military cloak is curiously conventionalised. Skinner propounded the theory that we have here a portrait of the Emperor Septimius Severus and his sons Caracalla and Geta. That, however, is quite out of the question. Apart from other objections, it is obvious that Imperial personages would never have been represented with the uniform and equipment of the rank and file. The figures may well be intended for portraits, perhaps of a father and two sons who had fallen in battle. But, in the absence of the inscription, we can only

designate them as legionary soldiers, and conjecture that the slab may be the upper portion of a tombstone.

Fig. 4 is much more of a fragment than fig. 3. It is the left-hand portion of a decorated slab that has originally borne an inscription. A figure of Venus quitting the bath, glancing furtively behind her as she steps to the left, is seen between two Corinthian pillars, from the inner of which an arch has sprung. The centre of the stone has been occupied by a large wreath, within which the inscription was cut, while a naked



Fig. 4.

figure is huddled into the corner between the wreath and the base of the pillar beside it. Until the paint was removed, no trace of the inscription could be detected with confidence. Now, however, one can make out quite distinctly V and possibly VI, which would correspond with Skinner's drawing.¹ He saw in this the remnant of a dedication to Victory. Others have thought that the stone had belonged to the series of distance-slabs. A more likely explanation than either is that it has been an ordinary building-inscription consisting of three or four lines. A very similar, but somewhat simpler, stone is built into the wall of Cadder

¹ It would also correspond with the drawing made in the same year by Dr John Buchanan (Stuart, *Caled. Rom.*, 2nd ed., p. 341, footnote).

House.¹ It is quite complete, and shows, within a large wreath, the letters :—

LEG
II
AVG
FEC

A stone from Croy Hill, that has long been in the National Museum,² proves that the Sixth Legion did building-work at the fort there. I should therefore propose to reconstruct the inscription of fig. 4 somewhat as follows :—

LEG
VI·VICTR·
P·F·FEC