

On Roman Remains

FOUND ON THE SITE OF THE NEW
BUILDING ADDED TO THE
BATH MINERAL WATER HOSPITAL, 1859,
TOGETHER WITH A
FRAGMENT OF AN INSCRIPTION
FOUND THERE AT THE SAME TIME.

BY THE REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

IN preparing the ground for the site of the addition to the Mineral Water Hospital in this city many Roman remains were discovered, and portions of a tessellated pavement of plain pattern, much earthenware of a coarse kind, and coins of the Lower Empire. But amongst these a fragment of an inscription on a marble slab deserves particular attention. There can be no doubt about its authenticity, as the party who picked it up, and who afterwards united the broken portions, is well known to me.

The letters are as follows and particularly well cut:—



There can be little doubt that after the word "Deae" came "Svli" or "Svliminervæ." The fragment of the letter "S" is sufficiently indicated, and, as we have four altars found in Bath dedicated to this tutelary goddess, as well as a tomb to her priest, there can be little hesitation about the reading in the present instance.

In the second line we have the two first names of the dedicator clearly indicated, "Ti[berivs] Cl[avdivs]," the triangular stop after each being clearly cut; and we have the commencement of the cognomen "T" which may be supplied by any of the Roman names beginning with that letter.

The third line commences with the letters "Sollen," the last letter being broken away, but sufficient remaining to leave no doubt what letter it was; and this word may be "Sollennes," with reference probably to the vows paid to the goddess, and which the tablet commemorated.

The letters in the fourth line, which are so far broken as to render conjecture very insecure, are cut much smaller than the others.* It is to be regretted that no more of this inscription was to be found, but every care was taken at

* See also *Gent. Mag.*, Aug., 1862.

the time to recover any other fragment that might be brought to light. The form of the letters and the clearness of the cutting indicate an early period, and the fact of the tablet being *marble* helps to authenticate other marble tablets said to have been found in England, but the authenticity of which have been disputed in consequence of marble inscriptions having been so seldom found.

Thus Whitaker, in his *History of Richmondshire*, vol. i., p. 150, speaking of the Roman remains at Rokeby, Yorkshire says, "Among these is one square marble urn, which tradition actually asserts to have been found at Rokeby; *nothing, however, but the testimony of eye-witnesses can render this assertion credible.* That the Romans never imported marble into Britain, nay, that they never wrought the marble rocks which were extant in the island, are two propositions to which I know of no exceptions. Where has an altar or inscription been found in the *Britannia Romana* in any other matter than the stone of the country? The Greta and the Teese presented to the Roman workman beds of limestone sufficiently obedient to the chisel and susceptible of the finest polish. But, from whatever cause, they universally neglected these elegant materials for the rough and untractable freestone of the place. It was reserved for the monks and their lay contemporaries to avail themselves of these treasures." We have, however, in this recent discovery a clear contradiction of this assertion. Here is a marble slab found, dedicated in all probability to a well-known local divinity, and this discovery may give weight, not only to the assertion that the marble urn at Rokeby was found in the Roman station there, but also go far to authenticate other marble tablets said to have been found in this island.

Mr. C. Roach Smith, in his illustrations of Roman

London, p. 24, has given a drawing and description of a marble tablet found in the Tenter Ground, in Goodman's Fields, near the Minories, in 1787, which is now in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He says "The slab is of native green marble about 15 in. by 12 in., and 3 in. thick." The inscription is as follows:—

D. M.
 FL. AGRICOLA. MIL.
 LEG. VI. VICT. V. AN.
 XLII. DX ALBIA
 FAVSTINA - CONIVGI
 INCOMPARABILI
 F. C

It is inscribed by Albia Faustina to her *incomparable* husband, Flavius Agricola, of the 6th Legion, surnamed "The Victorious." This Legion, he observes, was also styled "Pia Fidelis" and came into Britain from Germany in the reign of Hadrian, as appears from another inscription found in Rome.

Another marble tablet, said to have been found in Bath, is preserved at Exeter, whither it is said to have been sent to Dr. Musgrave, who then resided there. I saw it in 1857 by the kindness of the present possessor. The inscription runs thus:—

D. M.
 CAMILLVS
 SATVRNALIS CA
 MILLE NATVLE PAT
 RONE MERENTISSIME
 FECIT.

The finding of the fragment of a marble slab on the site of the new buildings of the Mineral Water Hospital seems

to authenticate this one which has hitherto been considered doubtful.

The marble tablet said to have been found at Wroxeter, which is now in the Museum at Shrewsbury, is, with more probability, thought to have been brought from abroad.

The white marble of which the Bath slab is composed is not found in England, although it is said to be found at Connemara, in Ireland. The marble resembles the Italian white marble.

The tessellated pavement laid open when the above remains were found was of a very rude description. The pattern consists of the common fret in white and blue tesserae. Wood records* that in digging the foundation of the General Hospital (now called the Mineral Water Hospital) in 1738, he came upon Roman remains which he describes as the "Vestigia of part of the Prætorium," and he gives a plan of these remains, which consist of a tessellated floor and some flue tiles. He mentions, also, a deep hole for ashes (and these pits have also been found in preparing the foundation for the present new building), and two ditches, each 2 ft. 6 in. broad. The portions of mosaic pavements were respectively 6 ft. broad and 18 ft. broad, and filled with circles 2 ft. 9 in. in diameter. Also two steps of 6 in. rise in each step, and a floor paved with common stone, the level of which was 12 in. higher than the others, and a wall of 2 ft. 3 in. thickness. Under the south west corner of the hospital old building wheat was found. The wheat, pavement, and hypocaust were found 6 ft. below the surface of the ground, and the remains at least 3 ft. above the gravel or pavement.

Under the Blue Coat School, in the next building adjoining the Hospital to the west, a pavement was

description

found in 1860, when the School House was being rebuilt. It is likewise of very coarse execution, and the pattern consists of the figures of dolphins, one of which is destroyed, the other much injured, and two other animals, one of which is a sea-horse, the other an animal with the head and hoofs of a deer, the hinder part of which is broken away. These figures have red streamers flying from different parts of the body, as may be seen in other pavements found in this country. The tesserae are red, blue, brown and white cubes. This is now laid down in one of the anti-chambers of the School House. These floors have belonged to buildings situated just within the ancient walls of the city. In front of the Mineral Water Hospital is a portion of the mediæval walls which, upon examination have been found to be built upon the foundation of the Roman city wall.

The following is a list of remains found in excavating for the foundation of the new building added to the Bath Mineral Water Hospital, in addition to the marble tablet, and which are now in the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution.

- Cinerary Urn, imperfect
- Bowl, of red ware
- Oval Chafing Dish, grey, unglazed earthenware
- Fragments of ditto
- Small Vase, entire
- Fragments of Samian and other Pottery
- Some Tesserae
- Six fragments of Amphorae
- Seventeen ditto light red Earthenware, doubtful
- Two perfect Bricks
- One fragment of Tile, scored
- One ditto Roofing Tile

- Five fragments of Wall Plaster
- One small light red coloured Vessel, turned in a lathe
- One elongated glass Unquentry
- Four other glass Bottles, not Roman.

BRONZE AND BONE IMPLEMENTS.

- Part of large bronze Fibula
- Liquid Measure, bronze
- Ring, with engraved stone
- Portions of a bronze Measure
- Two bone Hair Pins
- Portion of a Comb
- Two fragments of Carved Ivory
- Nine Boars' Tusks
- Four Horns of Animals, apparently goats
- Two fragments of Stags' Antlers.
- Key, not Roman, and many fragments of earthenware of doubtful date.

ROMAN COINS.

Trajan	2	Valentinian	2	Gratianus	<i>silver</i>
Hadrian	1	Valens	4	"	<i>copper</i> 2
Gallienus	2	Arcadius	1	Populus	
Victorinus	4	Allectus (?)	1	Romanus	1
Tetricus	4	Valerianus	1	Julia Paula (?)	1
Aurelian	1	Valentinus	1	Maximus	1
Constantine	7	Claudius		Urbs Roma	2
Carausius	4	Gothicus	1	Illegible	43
Conetantius	5	Byzantium	1		—
" junior	2	Geta, Billov		Total	95

The coins embrace a period from A.D. 98 to A.D. 408.