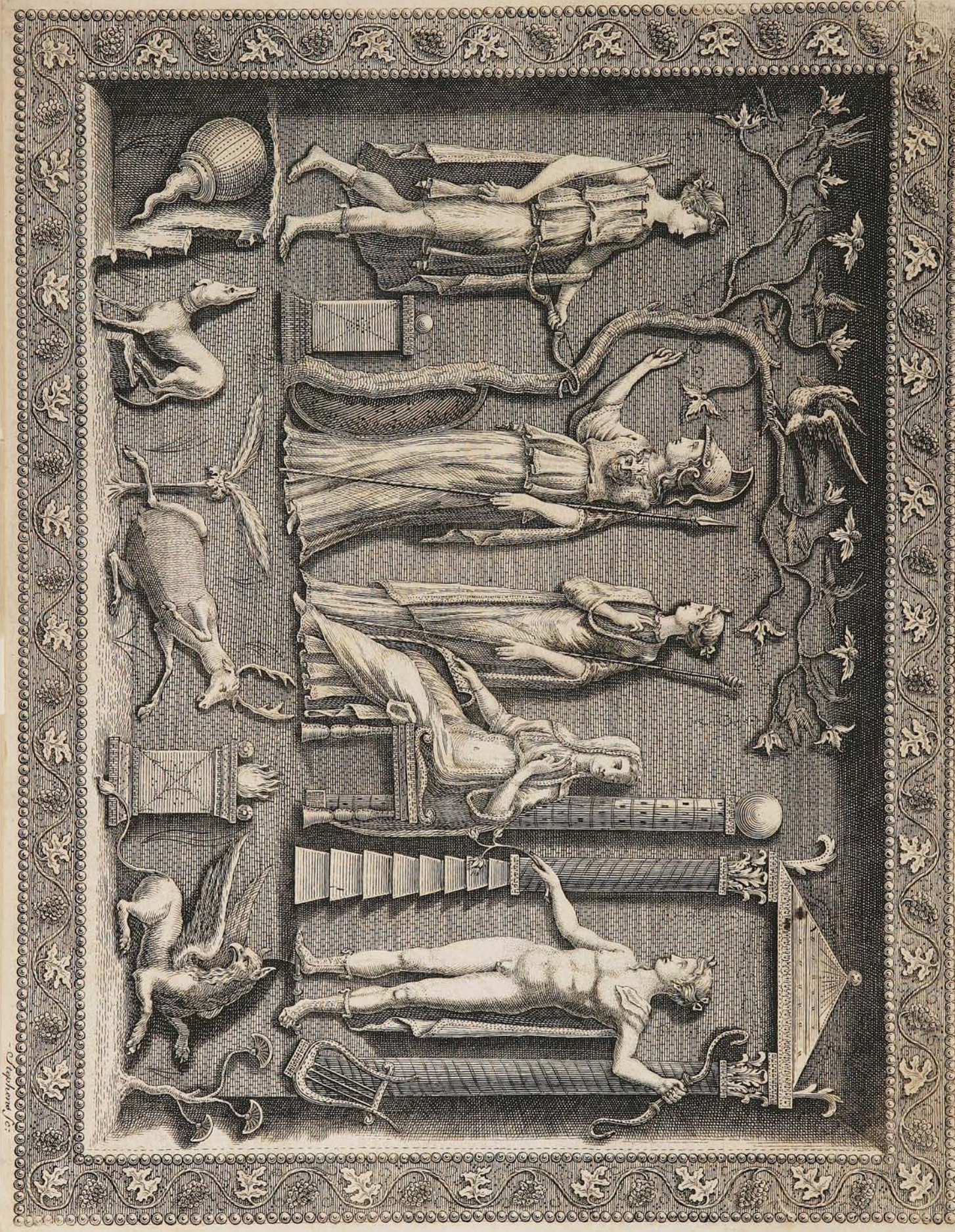


12x9 1/2 in. 8 1/2 in.



Stephenson & Co.



# TREASURE TROVE

IN

**Northumberland.**

Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's land-mark, which they of old time  
have set in thine inheritance.—*Deut. xix. 14.*



IMPRINTED BY GEORGE BOUCHIER RICHARDSON, AT THE SIGN OF THE  
RIVER-GOD TYNE, CLAYTON-STREET-WEST; PRINTER TO THE SOCIETY  
OF ANTIQUARIES, AND TO THE TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,  
BOTH OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

1851.



92947

TO  
HUGH TAYLOR

OF EARSDON HOUSE ESQ.

A MAN WHO WIELDS TO ADMIRATION THE GREAT POWER

WITH WHICH HE IS INVESTED

AND WHOM THE EDITOR FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN

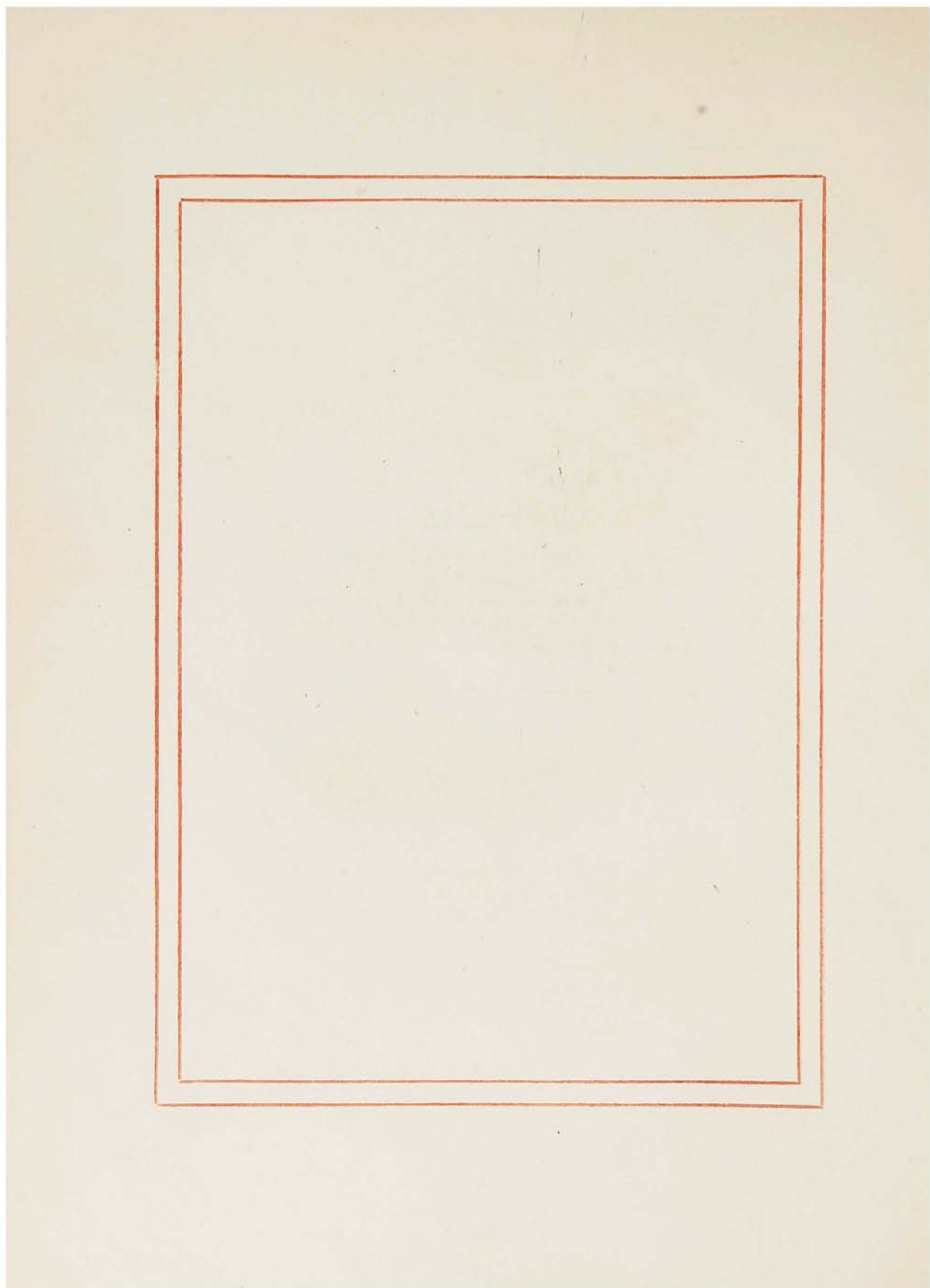
PRIVILEGED TO CALL HIS FRIEND

THIS TRACT

IS MOST GRATEFULLY

INSCRIBED.







### Advertisement.



**T**he Corbridge Lanx and the Thorngraston Treasure Trove are two of the most interesting remains of the kind which have occurred in Northumberland. It seemed to me desirable, that what had appeared in print respecting them, should be preserved as a tract, in connection with our Typographical Society. I have therefore been induced to edit the present publication.

The question of Treasure Trove is beginning to arrest the attention of antiquaries ; and a strong opinion prevails in certain quarters, that the law on this subject should receive a statutory alteration vesting the property discovered in the finder. A change of this kind might, certainly, be the means of preserving some remains of antiquity important to the elucidation of history ; but, as it appears to me, it would involve a violation of those rights of property which, in this land at least, we have been accustomed to regard as sacred. Would parliament award compensation to the grantee of the crown for stripping him of this right ? From what source, general



ADVERTISEMENT.

or local, should the compensation spring? And is the fortunate discoverer to have in his own discretion the treasure found, with full power to sell to the highest bidder, to consign to the melting-pot, or to retain in his own uncontrouled possession? or is he to part with the property? and to whom? and by what means is *his* recompense to be ascertained? and by whom is it to be discharged?

Mr. Akerman, in the Numismatic Journal for April, 1849, gives a report of legal proceedings in the WHADNON CHASE FIND; "the particulars of which," he says, "will amuse our readers, while the sophistry of the learned counsel for the defendant will shew the uninitiated, how the law may sometimes be handled for the protection of the offender." "In making this remark," he adds, "we by no means attempt to deny that the law relating to Treasure Trove calls for revision: all we maintain is, that *as part of the law of the land, the ignorant should be taught to respect it,*" and as *a case of this kind*, it is gratifying to me that he refers to 'The Duke of Northumberland *v.* Pattison.' I wish Mr. Akerman had favoured us with his opinion as to the kind and extent of the revision he thinks to be desirable. Any suggestion from such an authority is entitled to serious consideration.

It only remains for me to state the sources whence I have obtained the following articles. The first part of the print respecting the CORBRIDGE LANX is from Hutchinson's History of Northumberland, vol. i. pp. 145-61: Part II. is from Peere Williams' Reports Vol iii., pp. 390-1: the copy of the Injunction issued by Lord



ADVERTISEMENT.

Chancellor Talbot is from the identical copy which was served in the suit on Mr. Cookson, the defendant, and which had been carefully preserved by the late Mr. John Rawling Wilson, of the Customs, in this port: Part III. is from Hodgson's Northumberland, vol. iii. pp. 245-6. THE THORNGRAFTON TREASURE TROVE, Part I. is from the Gentleman's Magazine for December, 1837: Part II. is from the Numismatic Journal for January, 1838: Part III. is from the same periodical for April, 1838: and for Part IV. Numismatists are indebted to my learned and modest friend, Mr. Fairless, of Hexham; I print it as it appears in the splendid and most valuable work on the ROMAN WALL, recently published by my ~~kynde frere~~ in all that adds enjoyment to life, the Rev. John Collingwood Bruce.

JOHN FENWICK.

*Ellison-place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*

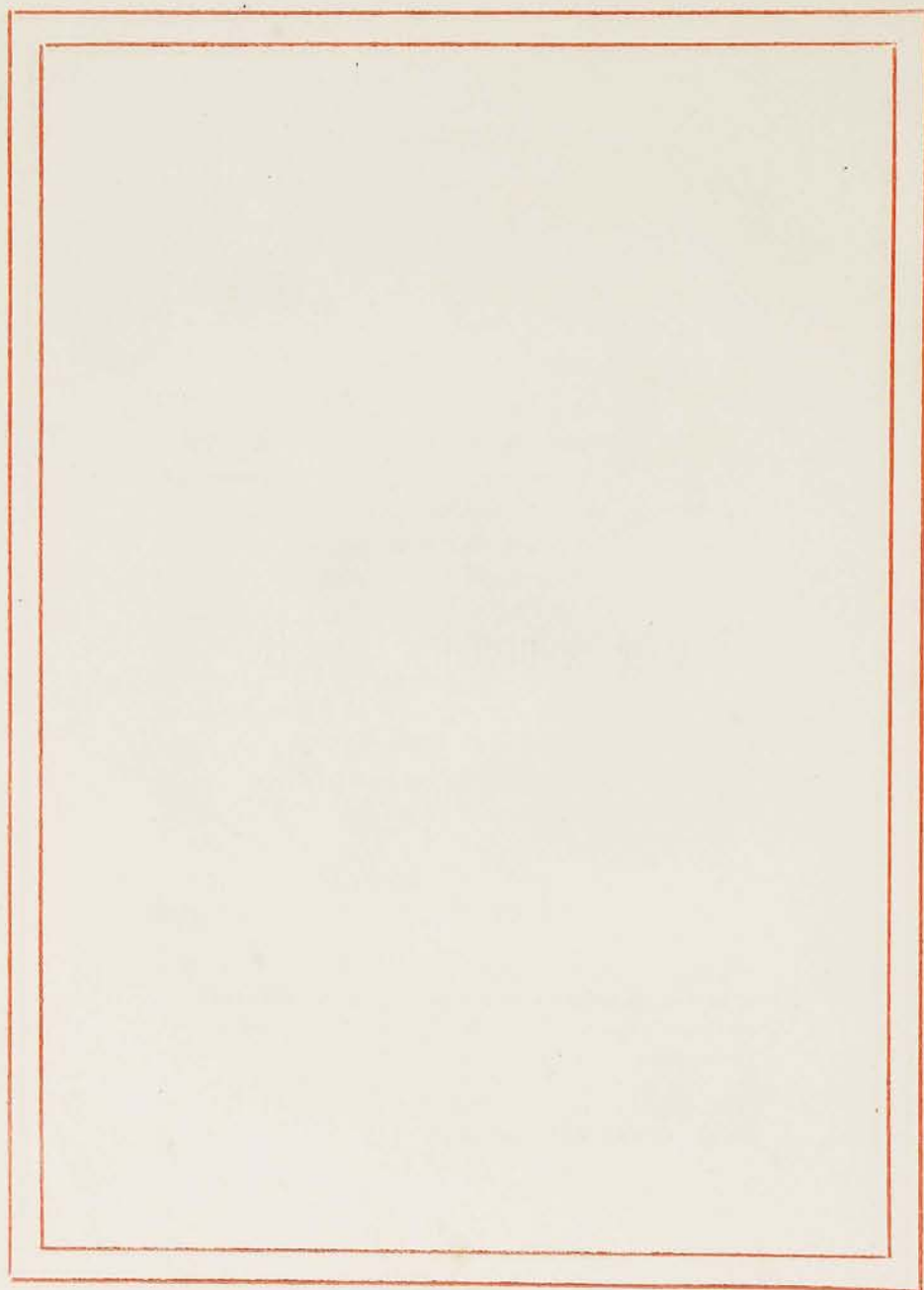
*7 March, 1851.*







The Corbridge Larr.





## THE CORBRIDGE LANX.<sup>a</sup>



In the year 1735, there was found near Corbridge, a curious piece of Roman plate, now in the possession of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland. It weighs 148 ounces, is 20 inches long, and 15 broad, a print of which, engraved by Vertue, some years ago was published by Mr. William Shaftoe. We intended whilst upon our journey, to have procured a drawing of this curious piece of antiquity; but on our arrival at Alnwick, found the castle crowded with visitants, it being one of his Grace's public days, when the popularity and liberal spirit, so eminently distinguished in his Grace's character, laid open the gates of his palace.

It is probable this piece of plate was not for sacred uses, but was a *Lanx*, for the service of the Emperor's table on high festivals; and expressive of some great

<sup>a</sup> [LANX, *dim.* LANCULA, a large dish, made of silver, or some other metal, and sometimes embossed, used at splendid entertainments to hold meat or fruit; and consequently at sacrifices and funeral banquets. The silver dishes used by the Romans at their grand dinners were of a vast size, so that a boar, for example, might be brought whole to the table. They often weighed from 150 to 500 pounds.—*Yates in Smith, voce LANX.*]

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

achievement to the glory of the Roman Eagle : the locality and the event being lost to us in the distant antiquity.

The best description and definition now extant, have been communicated to me, among the manuscripts of the late Roger Gale, esq ; and I do not doubt that the curious reader will readily pardon my inserting the papers at length which relate thereto.

From the Manuscripts of the late *Roger Gale, Esq ;*  
Extract from the Newcastle News-paper, with an account  
of an ancient Silver Plate found near Cor-  
bridge, in Northumberland.

“A few days since, near the Roman wall in Northumberland, was found by a smith's daughter in Corbridge, an ancient piece of silver, in shape like a tea-board, 20 inches long, and 15 broad, hollowed about an inch deep, with a flat brim, an inch and a quarter broad, neatly flowered with a vine full of grapes, &c.—On the right hand is a figure of *Apollo*, with the bow in his left hand, and a physical herb in his right, under a canopy supported by two Corinthian pillars ; near his left leg is a *Tyre* [Lyre], under it an *Heliotrope* [Qu. Heliotrope, or Turnsole], and at his feet a *Python* ; near the right hand pillar is another of a different form, with a sun for its capital ; against this sits a *Priestess* on a tripod, who looks over her shoulder at *Apollo*, under her feet is an altar, near which lies a stag on its back.—The next figure to the Priestess is another female, her head unveiled, with a spear or wand in her left hand, on the top of



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

which is a ball, and near her is *Minerva* with a helmet on her head, a spear in her left hand, pointing with her right to a man (supposed an hunter) on the other side of a large tree; on *Minerva's* breast is a *Medusa's head*, under [near] her feet an altar, and near it a wolf looking up to a man who has a bow in his left, and an arrow in his right hand; below him, at one corner of the plate, is a rock with an urn in the midst of it, from which flows a stream. The figures are raised large, and well proportioned and cast-work, without the least sign of a graver upon it. There are a few scratches of a punch or chisel on the back of it; the three first are I.PX, but the rest is very unintelligible. It had under the middle of it a low frame, about 7 inches long, 4 broad, and one and a half deep, but this was broken off by the smith, though once all of a piece. It was found by a little brook or water-course near the above mentioned place, and weighing about 148 ounces, was bought by Mr Cookson, a goldsmith of Newcastle, who values it at a high rate. It has been described by several *Virtuosi* to the Royal Society, that of the Antiquarians, and others, who esteem it a valuable relique of antiquity."

Letter from *Mr Robert Cay*, with an account of the Corbridge Silver Plate. 4 March 1734.

"SIR,

"My fondness to antiquity is revived, and with it the memory of my obligations to you, by a Silver Table that has lately fallen into the hands of Mr Isaac Cookson, a

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

goldsmith in this town. It was found near Corbridge, by some ignorant poor people, who have cut off the feet in such a vile barbarous manner, that they have broke two holes through the table, and a small piece off one of the corners too. It is 19 inches and  $\frac{1}{2}$  long, and 15 broad, the feet  $7\frac{1}{2}$  long, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and about one inch high; it weighs about 150 ounces. I imagine it to have been cast all in one piece, most of the work is in basse relief, the rest engraved. It represents a sacrifice to *Apollo*, whose image stands in a small temple by two Corinthian pillars; against one of them seems to be a pile of some square blocks, and close to it sits a Priestess upon a stool, that shews but two feet; behind her is a column with a globe upon it, I suppose to represent the sun, though had it been alone I should not have thought so: near her stands another in the same habit, and a third that seems to have the attributes of *Pallas*, particularly the head piece. Near the last is a man<sup>b</sup> with a bow in his left hand, and an arrow in his right, before him is an altar, and a dog, I think a greyhound, near him; behind him is a large spreading tree, with an eagle perched upon it; there are also several small birds about it, but these are only engraved. In the lower corner next the man, on the left hand as you look at it, there is a rocky hill, and on the side of it lies an urn with a stream of water running out perhaps designed to represent the river Tyne. The two standing women hold each of them a staff of their own height. Afore the temple

<sup>b</sup> This figure is Diana, not a man.—R. G.



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

is another altar, on one side of which lies a griffin, and on the other side next the man, a buck, which seems to be killed for a sacrifice; near the buck grow two ears of corn tyed together, and near the griffin a shrub of three or four branches, that has at the end of each branch somewhat formed like a fan. There is a border raised round the whole, higher than the plain, which is adorned with a vine; the branch is engraved, but the grapes and leaves are in basse relief. I am Sir, yours, &c.

ROBERT CAY.

“Newcastle, 4 March, 1734.

“I heartily wish this table was in the hands of some curious gentleman well able to make such purchases, for I find Mr Cookson will expect profit, though I hope he will not be unreasonable. I should have taken notice, that the workmanship appears in all respects to be of the lower Empire.

Another Letter from *Mr Cay*, on the Corbridge  
Silver Plate.

15 March, 1735.

“SIR,

“Soon after the post was gone from hence, I received yours of the 11th. This morning I went to the goldsmith, who soon convinced me of my error in saying the birds, &c. were engraved; and that all which I thought to be engraved, was struck with the chisel and punch: so that I must own your suspicions were well grounded. Mr Cookson's father happens to be here now; I take him to be well versed in the art of casting of metals; he shewed

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

me several marks near one end, in the middle of which end there is a crack; which marks and crack, he says, are proofs that it was cast in one piece.

"I enquired again about the price, but Mr Cookson waived saying any thing different from what I mentioned to you yesterday; which was, that he hoped it would produce him about 200 guineas.

"As to the place where it was found, he says, he can tell me no more, than that it was somewhere near Corbridge. He apprehends the person who sold it to him was afraid to name the particular place, or to confess in whose manor it was discovered, as fearing a claim from the Lord of the Manor.

"Since writing the above, I am told a kind of a claim has been made on behalf of the Duke of Somerset, though neither his Grace's officer, nor the goldsmith know in whose manor it was found.

"On the back of the table there is a kind of inscription, which I cannot pretend to read, but will endeavour to represent it below.

"I am, Sir, yours, &c ROBERT CAY.

PPXG|||ΔΔ.HH|||8||

"P.S. I am told two other pieces of antique plate have been since found in the same place. One of them was sold to a gentleman in Cumberland, and the other to a goldsmith in this town, who, thinking it much damaged, had melted it down before I heard of it. R. C."

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

Letter from *Sir John Clerk*, in answer to one from  
*Mr Gale*, giving an account of the Corbridge  
Silver Plate.

“The account you have sent me of the silver table found near Corbridge is very surprizing. How happy had Mr Gorden and I been, when we were hunting for Roman Antiquities in that country, if this valuable curiosity had fallen into our hands ! As to the use of it, I make no question of its being a *tabula votiva*, and that it has been hung up, or kept in a temple, at Corbridge ; dedicated perhaps to *Apollo* or *Ceres*. No doubt the Roman officer, who commanded in these northern parts of Britain, thought himself very happy, to find good meat and drink, in a country where he expected to find nothing but famine and barbarity ; and therefore in gratitude made this present to the God of the place.

“I cannot help, since I am in this way of thinking, to reflect a little upon what I observed in a church, called *Notre Dame de Halle*, about 12 miles from Brussels ; the walls were hung round with silver legs and arms, cups, and several other things in silver, as tokens of gratitude to the blessed Virgin, for having by her means and intercession, been recovered from infirmities and distempers.

“Among other things, I could not but take notice of a Silver Pen, which old doating *Justus Lipsius* had sent thither some years before, out of gratitude, as an inscription told us, for that by the assistance of the virgin Mary, he had been enabled with so much eloquence, &c. to



THE CORBRIDGE LANK.

write a Treatise *de Miraculis B. Virginis Hallensis*. I called to mind upon that occasion, passages very agreeable to your Silver Table and applicable.

Hic steterat nautis olim venerabile lignum  
Servati ex undis ubi figere dona solebant  
Laurenti Divo, et votis suspendere vestes.  
————— me Tabula sacer  
Votiva paries indicat uvida  
Suspendisse potenti  
Vestimenta maris Deo.<sup>d</sup>

“You are pleased to express some doubt, as to the engraving; and I think you have reason. The Romans, I believe, never practised our way of engraving, yet they did what was next to it, for they were used to cut some remarkable laws and edicts in brass tables, as they used to make inscriptions in marble or stone. I have seen some of these, particularly at Lyons, which at that time made me reflect on the dulness of the Romans, and all mankind besides, that by means of these brass plates they had not fallen upon the art of printing; for if these had been daubed over with any sort of colour, and clapt upon the paper or parchment, they would soon have introduced that art; but there are many plain things that mankind cannot see into all of a sudden, and which are reserved for posterity. I’d be glad to hear from you after you have seen this fine plate; ’tis well the goldsmith did not melt

<sup>c</sup> Virg. *Æn.* Lib. 12. V. 767.      <sup>d</sup> Hor. 1 Lib. *Carm.* Od. 5.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

it down, as some modern Goths of this trade have frequently done.

I am ever, Sir,

Your most faithful humble servant,

Pennycink [*Qu. Pennycuick*],

JOHN CLERK

28th March, 1735.

“By way of corollary, I must add to what I have said above, that if search was made in the very place where this plate was found, many fine things may probably be discovered.

“See postscript to Mr Cay’s letter, 15th March, 1735.”

Letter from *Maurice Johnson, Esq.*: in answer to one from *Mr Gale*, giving an account of the Corbridge Silver Plate, &c.

3d May, 1735,

“SIR,

“It was with much pleasure I received and communicated to our little fraternity, your very obliging and ingenious account of the Corbridge Silver Table, which honour I am commanded to return you thanks for, and for your very kind promise of continuing to us the most valuable favour, of your ever entertaining, judicious, and improving correspondence. On reading your account of that massy piece, some of us thought it might have been part of an *Acerra*, or sacred coffer, wherein incense and odours were preserved for the service of the altar, or salt, &c. for some sorts of sacrifices; others have perhaps with more reason conceived it to be a stand, salver, or sort of

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

waiter to set such things on, or even the *Acerra*, or perhaps for domestic uses; for we are too apt to apply every relique of antiquity, as being venerable, to sacred purposes. The Society next succeeding (which was the 1st of last month) we had much the like account, but the dimensions a little different, and the figures or characters on the back said to be I. P. X. with the unintelligible traces of more: to us they are so.

“Our friend and brother member Mr Bogdani, in a letter I lately received from him, tells me, you now seem to think this piece cast or wrought in the Saxon<sup>e</sup> times; of which people, as we have fewer remains in the arts of designing (when they are said to have been in a great measure lost, I should be glad if this shewed us somewhat of their ceremonies or customs) than of the Romans; of which we have many, and under whom, from the *Græcia Capta* to the utter declension of their empire, we have in almost every part of the world most splendid remains; but from what I remember to have read in *Verstegan* or elsewhere, of the Saxons, I cannot apply any part of this design, peculiarly to any piece of their sacred or civil history; from the coins even of their latest Princes, they seem to me to have had less notions of designing after nature, and to have done their work in a much worse taste than our old British ancestors, of whom I am satisfied, I have seen several coins or medals in every one of the three metals,

<sup>e</sup> This is a mistake in Mr B. for I never told him so, or ever had the least surmise of its being Saxon.—*R. G.*



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

not imitating or borrowed from the Romans, or made by Roman workmen; and of these, some by the extraordinary boldness of the relief, and all by their convexity, more in the manner of some of the eastern people than the Romans; to whom the manner of chariot-fighting seemed strange, though very customary with the eastern nations, whose strength for the battle was frequently calculated or estimated by the number of their chariots and horsemen: and I cannot say I ever saw a fair piece of old convex coin found in England, but had on it some design of a horse, horseman, chariot or wheels, and sometimes with more things with them. Notwithstanding what has been advanced against the judgment of Sir Robert Cotton, Selden, Speed, Camden, &c. I cannot but think that in the main they give us rational conjectures about the British coins or medals, if we should not allow them to be current coin; for which yet I see not any reason, unless we are bound to take all for truth and fact which the Romans relate, and admit also, that they told the whole truth, and all that was really fact, of those brave, polite, and honest people, whom they so gloried in annoying and distressing. *Sed manum de tabulâ.*—Only give me leave by you, Sir, to present our thanks to your good brother, for his ingenious Dissertation on Cæsar's Landing, which gave our Society much pleasure, particularly our worthy President, and another member, who having some years resided in those parts, well knew all the places therein mentioned.

“What we have had of late communicated, has been

<sup>J</sup> Spalding Society.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

chiefly poems, and some philosophical experiments, schemes of draining, and several petrifications presented to our petty *Musæum*, where we continue to amuse ourselves every Thursday, and remember with pleasure our friends at the Mitre.

“ On the 17th ult. the Rev. Mr Ray, V.P. shewed the Society a sculpture in ivory of a skeleton sitting on a monument, with a winding-sheet thrown over him like a loose robe, resting his right hand on an hour glass, and his left on his scythe, with skulls and bones in bass relief, on the sides of the monument. The blade of the scythe had teeth like a sickle, the work seemed of some age, but as a Physician said, not accurate.

“ He also shewed a paper MS. in 24°. of the whole book of Psalms, in number 150, written in French most elegantly in all the hands in use throughout Europe, by *Mrs Esther Anglois*, a French Lady at *Lislebourgh en Esosse*, 1599, dedicated to *Prince Maurice of Nassau*, with a complimentary copy of Latin Verses to his Highness, by B. K. her husband, and several on the Lady's elegant writing, by Andrew Melvin, John Johnson, Robert Rolloe, and on her person and great abilities, under her picture, neatly drawn by herself with a pen ; as are also the Arms of that Prince, and a Head and Tail-piece to each psalm. This curious little MSS. [*Qu. MS.*] is bound in velvet embroidered with gold, the leaves finely gilded and painted, with a running foliage stamped thereon : the said Prince of Orange's *cognizance* or device is embroidered on the

THE CORBRIDGE LANT.

corners in silk of proper colours, and drawn with a pen at the end of the book, within a laurel wreath, a branch of palm with the motto, VIRESCIT, on an escrol, wrapped round it, and a coronet over it. It was, by tradition given by the Prince to a French Refugee Gentleman, who was his Surgeon; and from him came into the hands of a Lady, who now owns it, and sets a very high value upon it. The Prince and Poets, we know, are eminent enough, though their compliments are puns, and their wit low; but who B. K. called *dictæ Esthræ Maritus*, should be, we know not.—I wish, good Sir, I had any thing better to divert you with; I write now however as soon as I could, rather than be rude, in neglecting by answer, to acknowledge the receipt of yours, and the great pleasure and honour you have done to us all; and more particularly to,

Dear Sir,

Spalding,      Your most obedient humble servant,  
3 May, 1735.      MAURICE JOHNSON."

Part of a Letter from *Sir John Clerk*, relating the Corbridge Silver Plate.

"SIR,

"I had yours of the 1st instant in due time, but since you was to go down to Cambridge, I delayed giving you any trouble till now. I am very much obliged to you for the particular account you have been pleased to send me of the Silver Table. I am sorry that you think it not ancient, and yet by the figures it should seem so still. I



THE CORBRIDGE LANT.

humbly think, that if these figures relate to any known piece of history among the ancients, they may be modern; but if they relate to nothing of this kind, they may be ancient still, at least of the lower Empire, or the Greek. In *Father Mabillon's Diplomata* there are several engravings which one would believe to be modern, and yet are of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th centuries. The argument I now would draw from these is only this, that in the 3d and 4th centuries there might have been some heathen engravings much of the same kind; but you can best make the comparison, who have seen the table.

"I am surprized with what you write me about the reception Mr Blackwall's book<sup>d</sup> had with my good friend my Lord Islay:—something or other has disoblged him, for I know his respect for all men who are lovers of learning only, as well as the Literati themselves. He had a particular regard for Mr Horsley, who printed the *Britannia Romana*, and was positively resolved to have done him service about the time when he died. I am, &c.

Pennycinck, [*Qu. Pennycuick.*] JOHN CLERK."

30 May, 1735.

Part of another Letter from *Sir John Clerk*, on the  
Corbridge Silver Plate,

"DEAR SIR,

"I am glad that upon viewing the Silver Table you think it ancient. This was always the notion I conceived

<sup>d</sup> Essay or Enquiry into Homer's Life and Writings. London, printed 1735.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

of it, for I could not imagine any modern Sculptor could get into his head so much ancient imagery, without any foundation from ancient history or fable. I am indifferent who gets the better in the law-suit,<sup>a</sup> but I hope it will be preserved and kept in the country. I fancy with myself you will be able to discover some piece of our history from it; for I make not the least question but it has been a present from some of the Roman Emperors, and alludes to some memorable affairs at the time. The table has served, I believe, for an oblation of fruits or corn on some remarkable altar near the wall, erected to the honour of perhaps *Diana*, *Ceres*, or *Bacchus*, and that it has afterwards been hung up in the temple dedicated to one of these Deities. An Irishman would perhaps discover the antiquity of Ireland from the Harp, and I believe you will be inclined to think one of the figures is a representation of Britain. I am, &c.

"6 August, 1735.

JOHN CLERK."

Letter from *Roger Gale, Esq*; to Mr *Robert Cay*, upon the Silver Plate found at Corbridge.

"When I wrote last, I had only time to return you thanks for the favour you procured me from Mr Cookson. of taking a draught of his most curious Silver Table, being to go out of town next morning. Since I came back, upon perusing the letters I received from you on that occasion I find in one of them a desire of knowing my thoughts upon that subject, which I cannot refuse to a

<sup>a</sup> Duke of Somerset against Mr Cookson.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

gentleman who has laid me under so many obligations, and to whom the pleasure and entertainment I have received from the frequent views of that uncommon and valuable piece of antiquity, are entirely due ; and the less, because the accounts hitherto published of it seem to me not a little erroneous.

“ I shall begin to describe it from the right hand to the left, as you look upon the face of the plate, where *Apollo*, the principal figure in the whole piece, is placed in a *fanum* or small temple, (the roof of which is supported by two wreathed columns with flowered capitals) almost naked, having only a *pallium* hanging down from his left shoulder over his back ; in the same hand is his bow, which he holds up towards the top of the column on the same side ; his right hand is extended downwards with a branch in it, perhaps of laurel, cross that pillar ; against which, almost to the middle of it, rises a pyramidical pile of 12 pieces : for what it is intended, I must confess my ignorance.—(See the plate.)

“ Against the basis of the left hand column, rests a lyre, whose form is truly antique ; and beneath it grows a plant with three spreading flowers at its three extremities, designed, as I suppose, for an *Heliotrope* ; close by it crouches a *Griffin*, with its wings elevated over its back. The Ancients had so high an opinion of the sagacity of this fictitious animal, that they consecrated it to the God of Wisdom : *Begerus* gives us a medal of *Commodus*, the reverse whereof is *Apollo* in a chariot drawn by two *Griffins* ;



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

and the poet *Claudian* alludes to this manner of his riding, in the following distich :

At si Phœbus adest, et frænis grypha jugalem  
Rhipæo tripodas repetens detorsit ab axe, &c. <sup>i</sup>

“ Against the right hand column and this pyramidical pile, sits a woman, upon a square four-footed stool, though no more than two of its legs are visible ; she looks backward over her left shoulder towards *Apollo*, and is wrapped up in a long garment or *stola*, from head to foot, and veiled. By this attire, and the altar which was brought from Troy, with the eternal fire burning upon it just by her, I take her to be *Vesta*.

—— Manibus vittas, vestamque potentem	
Æternunque adytis effert penetralibus ignem	Virgil.
Et vos Virgineâ lucentes semper in arâ	
Laomidentæ, Trojana altaria, flammæ.	Sil. Hal.

Her left hand is reposed upon her breast, and in her right, which rests upon the same thigh, she holds a little bundle (bound about with a ribbon), perhaps of wool.

“ Below her, lies a buck, dead, on one side, turning up his belly ; and behind her, rises a tall pillar with a globe upon it, probably to denote the earth, of which she was goddess.

“ The next is a woman erect, her hair gathered up and tied with a knot behind, upon her forehead rises a *Tutu-*

<sup>i</sup> Claudian VI. Cons. Honorii.

THE CORBRIDGE LANT.

*lus*, and she is habited in a *Stola* from her shoulders to the ground: her right arm is wrapped up cross her breast in her garb, only the hand appearing out of it; in her left she holds the spear, the shaft twisted, the iron of it something obtuse. This seems to be the only human figure in the company; but a very learned gentleman<sup>k</sup> of my acquaintance thinks it may be designed for *Juno*, who is often thus accoutred with a spear; if so, it must be the effigies of *Juno curis*, or *Juno hastata*; we have it from Ovid,

“—— Quod hasta curis priscis est dicta sabinis.”

She was the same with *Juno pronuba*; “Celebri hasta  
“nubentis caput comebatur, vel quia *Junonis curitis* in  
“tutelâ esset, vel ut fortes viros ominaretur;” but as there is no peacock, nor any other attribute of her divinity attending her, and her appearance no ways majestick or adequate to the

——Divum regina, Jovisque  
Et soror et conjux,

I cannot be entirely of his opinion, especially as she seems by her posture and attitude to be a follower and attendant of the next figure, which is plainly “*Pallas—Galeâ effulgens Gorgone sævâ*,” the head of that monster, as usual,

<sup>k</sup> Mr Blackwall, author of the Inquiry into the Life and Writings of Homer.

THE CORBRIDGE LANT.

being fixt upon her breast. In her left hand she holds a sharp-pointed spear, her right is extended towards *Diana*, with whom she seems engaged in a very earnest discourse, to which also that goddess seems very attentive: she is the last figure in the group, though called a man in all the accounts I have seen of this table, and represented here as the *Diana venatrix* by the *coif* and feminine dress of her head, tuck'd up with a knot behind, like the hair of the third figure, as well as by the bow in her left, and arrow in her right hand. Her short *Tunica*, which reaches down little more than to the middle of her thighs, and her buskins, that come up no higher than the calf of her legs, has occasioned this mistake of her sex, but Ovid tells us,

"*Talia succincta pinguntur crura Dianæ*  
"*Cum sequitur fortes, fortior ipsa, feros.*"

Between the two figures of *Pallas* and *Diana*, rises a tall slender tree with a crooked waving stem, the branches of which are displayed almost over two-thirds of the top of the plate. On the main branch is perch'd an eagle, with one wing expanded, as if going to take a flight: this is of raised solid work, like the rest of the figures, but there are several small birds sitting among the boughs, that are only punch'd, or cut in with a tool, as are also several festoons hanging down from the tree, and many other little shrubs and flowers interspersed all over the area of the table. The great bird sitting directly over the head of *Pallas*, made me conclude at first that it was her owl,



THE CORBRIDGE LANT.

till I had seen the original, which convinced me that it can be designed for nothing but an eagle.

"Under this tree stands an altar, and so close to *Diana*, that she holds her left hand and bow over it. It is but little, and has nothing upon it except a small globular body, perhaps a mass of the *Libamina*, *ex farre, melle, et oleo*.

"I should have told you, that below the feet of *Pallas* grows a plant, which seems to bear two ears of corn upon the same stalk, but cannot say what it is, or how it belongs to her. Beneath the tree and the little altar, stands a thin-gutted dog, like a greyhound, his nose turned up in a howling or barking posture, as often exhibited with this goddess on medals, and in other representations of her; some

---

—*Acutæ vocis Hylator*  
*Aut substricta gerens Sicyonius Ilia Ludon.* Ovid.

Under her, in the very corner of the plate, rises a rock upon which she sets her left foot, and against the side of it lies an *urn* with the mouth downwards, discharging a plentiful stream of water. As she stands upon this rock or hill, and so near to this spreading tree, I cannot but think of Horace's address to her,

"*Montium custos, Nemorumque Virgo.*"

The whole table is encompassed with a border, raised near an inch high and ornamented with a creeping vine, whose grapes and leaves are in *relievo*, but the stalk, only tooled.

THE CORBRIDGE LANY.

"The work of this curious piece is neither of the best nor worst of times : the figure of *Vesta*, particularly, is extremely well executed, the posture free, the drapery soft and easy ; and, what is very remarkable, the *instita* or border, an ornament of the *stola*, appropriated to Roman ladies of quality—"Quarum subsuta talos tegit instita veste,"<sup>1</sup> is neatly worked all round this of our *Vesta*, and those of the other female deities, nor is the next figure much inferior.

I cannot, nor has any body else who has seen it, discover that the plan has any relation to any story in the *Heathen Mythology*, but seems only an assemblage of the Deities it represents : this may be some argument of its antiquity,<sup>m</sup> for had a modern workman had the designing of it, he would in all probability have taken some known piece of history for his subject ; to which I may add, all the symbols are genuine, and truly adapted to their owners.

"I was once of opinion, that it might have been the cover of an *Acerra*, but the foot which supported it puts an end to the surmise. We don't well know what the *Anclabris* was, the definition of it is in *Festus* as follows : *Anclabris mensa divinis ministeriis apta : dicebantur autem "anclabria et Anclabris ab ancularum quod erat ministrare."* This is big enough to contain the *Extā* of a sheep, or other small victims, which seems to me to be the likeliest em-

<sup>1</sup> Horace.

<sup>m</sup> See Sir John Clerk's Letter, 6th August, 1735.

THE CORBRIDGE LANY.

ployment for it, and that it was one of these sacrificing utensils that Virgil more than once calls *Lances* :

"Lancibus et pandis fumantia reddimus Extā "

" ————Lancesque et Liba feremus. °

" Dona ferunt, cumulântque oneratis Lancibus Aras." p

These *Lances* were both round and square, but the *Discus* used for the same purpose seems to have been always round.

"If you have the patience to read this over, you will have reason to think me not a little impertinent, in giving you so minute a description of what you had seen so often, and so long before it came under my view ; but as I chance to have some notions different from what appeared to you, and as I could not well explain my thoughts upon it without entering into the particulars, I hope you will excuse me. My service to Mr Cookson, if he is desirous of seeing this, he may command it, but pray let no copy be taken of it.

I am,

London. Your most obedient humble servant,  
23d Aug. 1735.

R. GALE.

"N.B. Letters to the same purport, though not so full, were wrote to Mr Maurice Johnson, Dr Stukeley, and Sir John Clerk, by me,

R. G."

° Virg. G. 2. v. 194. ° Virg. G. 2. v. 394. p Virg. Æn. 8. v. 284.



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

Letter from *Maurice Johnson Esq* ; about the  
Corbridge Silver Plate.

“ SIR,

“ Your most obliging and ingenious account of the Corbridge Silver Table, and Dissertation upon it, I received and read to our Society last Thursday, the 21st instant, at which were present our Rev. President and 13 other Members, and 2 Honorary, and return you their and my thanks for that excellent entertainment. As you give leave to conjecture at the female figure erect, her hair tied up with a knot behind, with a small oval,<sup>9</sup> perhaps a British pearl (for which our coast was in the Roman times famous) her right arm wrapped up, a spear with an obtuse point in her left ; permit me to opine, this may be in honour to our isle and to represent *Britannia*, as on a coin of *Hadrian* in my collection, or *the Genius of Great Britain* still retained in the reverse of our copper coin, but in a sedentary posture ; sometimes by the Ancients with an *hasta pura*, sometimes, armed with an iron sharp-headed one ; here, as between both, with an obtuse blunt-headed one ; as worn in war *se defendendo* amongst the Romans. I know not what else to think it, and, as formed amongst us, who so likely ? The pyramidical figure I take only to denote *stabilitas aeterna*, and was, though in a less elegant form, the device of representing the Deity in the earliest times of art, before statuary had taught marbles to assume limbs, and

<sup>9</sup> This oval is much too big for a pearl.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

almost to breathe. Whatever this noble piece of plate was designed for, I take it to have been a grand compliment to our native country, and am therefore now the more desirous of being possessed of a drawing of it.

Spalding, 25th Aug. 1735.

M. JOHNSON."

*Mr Gale's Answer to the preceding Letter.*

"SIR,

"I am much pleased that the last account I sent of the Corbridge Plate met with so good a reception from the gentlemen for whose entertainment I designed it. We must yet call it the Corbridge Plate, since at present it is said to have been found near that town; though I am inclined to think it is only given out so, to conceal the true place where it was discovered. When the bill that the Duke of Somerset has filed in Chancery, against the present possessor of it, for *treasure-trove* in his royalty, comes to be argued, we may come to the truth. This contest with his Grace, made the owner very shy of letting it be seen by any body, and it was not without great importunity, that a gentleman, to whom he was under the strongest obligations, procured me the favour of taking a draught of it, and upon condition that I should not permit any one to copy it, nor know where the original, (which has been shifted into two or three hands), is now deposited. My promise to comply with these terms must

THE CORBRIDGE LANT.

plead my excuse for not permitting any body to take a copy of mine till the dispute is determined, or I have leave to impart it to my friends, among whom you may then command it with the first. I had, some weeks ago, given a very short account of the figures on this table, to Sir John Clerk at Edinburgh, a gentleman whose learning and judgment are of a superior degree. He had, from what I said to him, the very same opinion as yourself, about the unknown figure, viz. that it might represent *Britannia*, but I believe both you and he would change your thoughts upon inspection of it: it is entirely Roman by the habit, and not the least circumstance attending it that may honour our country with being in so celestial a rendezvous of Deities.

“Your conjecture upon the *pyramidical pile* I like well. I was once of opinion that it might have been some sort of an altar dedicated to *Apollo*, and that the 12 pieces of which it consists, might have some relation to the 12 months of the year. *Tellus Stabilis* we have upon the coins of *Hadrian*, *Sabina Faustina Pii*, and *Commodus*, but without this *pyramis*; in our table it is erected as near to *Vesta* as to *Apollo*, and so may be an attribute belonging as well to her, the Goddess of the Earth, as to him, the God of the Year. My best services attend your flourishing Society, and

I am, &c.

R. GALE.”



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

Letter from *Dr Stukeley*, concerning the Corbridge  
Plate, and a like piece found in Risley  
Park, in Derbyshire, to *Mr Gale*.

"DEAREST SIR,

"I thank you for the account of the Roman Salver; it is exactly such a sort of utensil as that found in *Risley Park*, in Derbyshire, eight years ago, of which I wrote a large account, and traced it from an altar in *France* where it was given by *Exuperius* the Bishop, a friend of *St Jerome's*, till it got to Derby, and probably thence to *Dale abbey altar*, near which it was found.

"We may conjecture it to have been buried at the dissolution, or in war time. 'Tis not unlikely that the Northumbrian plate was *St Wilfrid's* originally, and belonged to his cathedral at *Hexham*, buried there at his banishment, or since. He might purchase it in his travels in France or at Rome. I take them to have been to adorn the sideboards of the Romans upon festivals.

"I have drawn lately Abbot Fountain's (of Croyland) Chair at Upton, preserved by Bishop Dove at the dissolution: I am become a great Mandarin, and have wrote two or three verses of the beginning of the book of Genesis in Chinese.

I am, &c.

Stamford, 12 Sept. 1735.

W. STUKELEY."



## The Corbridge Lanx.

### Part ii.

#### Duke of Somerset *versus* Cookson.

**T**he Duke of Somerset, as lord of the manor of Corbridge, in Northumberland, (part of the estate of the Piercys late Earls of Northumberland) was intitled to an old altar-piece made of silver, remarkable for a *Greek* inscription and dedication to *Hercules*. His Grace became intitled to it as treasure trove within his said manor. This altar-piece had been sold by one who had got the possession of it, to the defendant, a goldsmith at Newcastle, but who had notice of the Duke's claim thereto. The Duke brought a bill in equity to compel the delivery of this altar-piece in *specie*, undefaced.

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

The defendant demurred as to part of the bill, for that the plaintiff had his remedy at law, by an action of *trover* or *detinue*, and ought not to bring his bill in equity; that it was true, for writings savouring of the realty a bill, would lie, but not for any thing merely personal; any more than it would for an horse or a cow. So, a bill might lie for an heir-loom; as in the case of *Pusey* versus *Pusey*, 1 *Vern.* 273. And though in *trover* the plaintiff could have only damages, yet in *detinue* the thing itself, if it can be found, is to be recovered; and if such bills as the present were to be allowed, half the actions of *trover* would be turned into bills in chancery.

On the other side it was urged, that the thing here sued for, was matter of curiosity and antiquity; and though at law, only the intrinsic value is to be recovered, yet it would be very hard that one who comes by such a piece of antiquity by wrong, or it may be as a trespasser, should have it in his power to keep the thing, paying only the intrinsic value of it: which is like a trespasser's forcing the right owner to part with a curiosity, or matter of antiquity, or ornament, *nolens volens*. Besides, the bill is to prevent the defendant from defacing the altar-piece, which is one way of depreciating it; and the defacing may be with an intention that it may not be known, by taking out, or erasing some of the marks and figures of it; and though the answer had denied the defacing of the altar-piece, yet such answer could not help the demurrer; that



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

in itself nothing can be more reasonable than that the man who by wrong detains my property, should be compelled to restore it to me again in specie ; and the law being defective in this particular, such defect is properly supplied in equity.

Wherefore it was prayed, that the demurrer might be overruled, and it was over-ruled accordingly.



*Copy of the Injunction issued by  
Lord Talbot, C. in the above Suit.*

**G**eorge the Second by the Grace of God  
of Great Britain France and Ireland king  
Defender of the Faith and soe forth To  
Isaac Cookson his Servants Agents and  
Workmen and every of them Greeting Whereas it  
hath been represented unto us in our Court of Chancery  
on the behalf of his Grace the most Noble Charles  
Duke of Somerset Complainant against you the said

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

Isaac Cookson Defendant That the said Plaintiff is Seized and Lord of the Manor of Corbridge in the County of Northumberland and as such intituled to all Waifes Estrayes and Treasure Trove happening within the said Mannor That there was a large peice of Silver Plate with many Curious figures of large Dimensions and fine representations on it which as it was apprehended had laine buryed in the Earth twelve hundred Ninety Seven Years found by the Daughter of one Cutter a Blacksmith within the said Mannor of Corbridge and that upon finding the same such Daughter of the Blacksmith carried the same to the said Cutter her Father who as it was pretended Sold the same for thirty three Pounds Six Shillings to you the Defendant who are a Goldsmith at Newcastle upon Tine That Thomas Elder Esquire one of the Plaintiffs Stewards by the Plaintiff's direction Sent to Joshua Green and Edward Winship to make inquiry into the said Affair and to demand the said Plate of the Defendant That Winship upon inquiry after the same was told by one Thomas Cutter a Blacksmith in Corbridge aforesaid that his daughter Isabell Cutter had found the said peice of Plate sticking amongst some Gravel and Mud near the Edge of the River Tine within the Plaintiffs said Mannor and that he the said Thomas Cutter had sold the same to you the said Defendant for the price before mentioned Upon which the said Winship did on the Plaintiffs behalf demand of you the Defendant the said Antient piece of Plate as the property of the

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

Plaintiff being found within the Plaintiffes said Mannor of Corbridge but you refused to deliver the same and told the said Winship that if the said peice of Plate was not then Melted down you would melt the same down and the said Winship hath been informed that you should say you would cutt the said Plate in peices and melt it down before any Duke (meaning the Plaintiffe) should have it from him As by the Affidavits of the said Edward Winship Joshua Green and Thomas Elder appeared To be relieved wherein the Plaintiffe hath exhibited his Bill in our said Court of Chancery To which you the Defendant have Appeared and prayed a Commission to take your Answer in the Country and a Months time to return the same Itt was therefore prayed that an Injunction might be Awarded to Stay you the Defendant from Alienating defacing or melting down the said peice of Plate ~~Where~~ upon and upon hearing the said Affidavits read and of what was alledged on both sides ~~We~~ do in Consideration of the premises Strictly Enjoyne and Command you the said Defendant Isaac Cookson and all and every the Persons before mentioned under the Penalty of One thousand Pounds to be levied upon your and every o your Lands Goods and Chattels to our vse ~~That~~ you and every of you Doe Absolutely desist from Alienating defacing or Melting down the said peice of Plate untill you the said Defendant shall have fully Answered the Plaintiffes Bill and our said Court take other Order to the Contrary Witness



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

Caroline<sup>a</sup> Queen of Great Britain. etc. Guardian of the said Realm etc. att Westminster the Nineteenth Day of July in the Ninth year of our Reign.

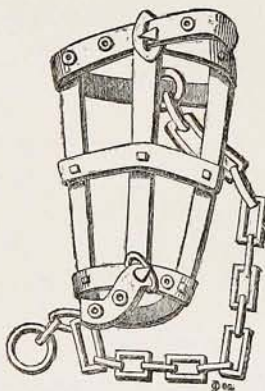
JEKYLL COLLINS.

By the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

T. C.<sup>b</sup>


<sup>a</sup> In the year 1735, King Geo. II, visited Hanover, and Queen Caroline was appointed guardian of the kingdom in his absence.—*J. F.*

<sup>b</sup> The initials of Lord Talbot, Chancellor.—*J. F.*



## The Corbridge Lanx.

### Part iii.

he greatest curiosity which has been discovered near Corbridge, is a rectangular silver dish,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 15, weighing 148 ounces, and now in the possession of the duke of Northumberland. It was found, in 1735, by a smith's daughter, buried in the sands, where a small stream enters the left side of the Tyne, a little below the town; and soon after sold to Mr. Isaac Cookson, an eminent goldsmith in Newcastle; but the duke of Somerset as lord of the manor of Corbridge, claimed it as treasure trove, and in a suit in Chancery with Mr. Cookson recovered it.

The wealthy Romans had large services of plate embossed with legends of their mythology, and used to heighten the pomp of their great domestic feasts; besides others employed in their religious processions and sacrifices. Whether this dish or salver had been applied to domestic or religious uses, it is, I think, difficult to determine. It had a foot one inch high, and [is]  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

long by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and [has] all round it a border 1 1-10th inch broad, bearing between two rows of beads a wavy vine stem, with a vine leaf and bunch of grapes alternately in each fold. The centre sinks about an inch below the brim, and has upon it the figures described to be those of Diana, Minerva, Juno, Vesta, and Apollo, with symbols of each divinity below.

I. Diana, with her bow in her left hand, an arrow in the right; before her an altar, with an offering upon it, of a globular form; and below her feet, an urn on a rock, with water running from it, and below the altar, a dog, of the greyhound species, looking up to the goddess.

II. Minerva helmeted, with the gorgon's head on her breast, a long spear in her left hand, and the two first fingers of the right uplifted, as if admonishing Diana to attention or silence, or performing some ceremony at the altar. A tree, bearing fruit, rises at the foot of the altar, overshadows all the four female divinities, and has, over Minerva's head, an eagle in the attitude of rising, several other small birds in its branches, besides a shield resting against its bole. What the plant below her feet is, I cannot tell. It seems to consist of a stem rising out of the earth, and bearing something like two bearded ears of corn out of a 4-fid calyx. It is, indeed, not unlike the two feathers of the Phœnicopterus on the head of Isis; but I have neither Wincleman, nor other sure guide to assist me in this article.

<sup>c</sup> Hutch. Northumb. i., 147.



THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

III. Juno, looking attentively at Diana, has a wooden spear or long twisted wand in her left hand, her right to the wrist confined in her mantle, and the two fore-fingers uplifted like those of Minerva: her hair is folded and in front has a single leaf erect. At her feet lies a dead buck. In making this a figure of Juno, I follow the opinion of Gale. But I see here no distinguishing feature or attribute of Juno.

IV. Vesta seated, part of her peplus or mantle drawn over-head, as a sign of her grief and modesty. The direction of her eyes and sedate expression of countenance are remarkable. The two fore fingers of the right hand are raised, and apparently resting on her bosom: her left hand rests on a... Behind the goddess rises a circular altar with a globe upon it, perhaps symbolical of "this pillar'd earth so firm and wide." The altar below, with the eternal fire upon it, is supposed to be here a symbol of Vesta.

V. Apollo standing on a plectrum, under a canopy, supported by two Corinthian pillars. In his right hand he holds a stalk or branch, bearing three barbed trefoils; and in his left, which is uplifted, his bow. The pillar on his right hand is remarkable—the lower half of it consisting of a semi-pyramid of eight divisions. Below his left foot is a plant of three stalks, each bearing a flower; and below the right foot a griffin, with its head turned towards the altar of Vesta.

Now, I apprehend the whole of this to be a symbolical allusion to the period of the year, when the sun passes the autumnal equinox. Apollo has put his plectrum

THE CORBRIDGE LANX.

under his feet, and his lyre has lost a string. The sunflower has folded up its disc ; but the griffin, a symbol of the sun, is given as a pledge that he will come again in his wonted strength in the sign Leo. On his departure, however, into the southern hemisphere, he presents Vesta in the character of Tellus or Ceres, with an emblem of fruitfulness ; and by the pyramid of eight compartments, assures her that in May, eight months hence, she will become a happy and fruitful mother. In her character of Earth, or the Great Mother, she is, however, sad and downcast at Apollo's departure : but, as the Goddess of Fire, her altar burns at her feet, to show that the light of the world, though it may be for a while dimmed, will not be extinguished by the sun's return to the lower hemisphere. The dead buck at the feet of the next figure may be intended either to show that the hunting season has commenced or allude to the third labour of Hercules, when he slew the deer with golden horns and brazen feet, at the sun's entrance into the constellation Cassiopeia, though that happens in the fourth month of the summer half year, and under the sign Scorpio. What exhortation Pallas (*"galeâ effulgens et Gorgone sævâ"*) is delivering to Diana, I will not conjecture : but the divine huntress stands in a posture of eager readiness to be permitted with her dog, and bow and arrow, to enter upon her autumnal sports ; and the urn on the rock, with the stream running from it, plainly shows that the rainy season has commenced.

*The Thorngraston Coins.*







THE  
THORNGRAFTON  
COINS.

Roman Coins found in *Northumberland*.



**O**n the 8th of August last [1837], while some workmen were quarrying stone for the Directors of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, on the top of Borcum, a high hill in the township of Thorngraston, and parish of Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, one of them found a copper vessel, containing 63 coins, 3 of gold and 60 of silver. The gold coins were, one of Claudius Cæsar, reverse Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus; one of Nero, and one of Vespasian. Of the silver coins 3 were of Galba, 1 of Otho, 1 of Nero, 15 of Vespasian, 8 of Domitian, 1 of Nerva, 17 of Trajan, 4 of Hadrian, and 10 of Empresses, Consular, or uncertain. Those of Trajan and Hadrian, are as fresh as if new from the die. The rest, especially the 10 last, more or less worn. Each of the gold coins was wrapped up in a

#### THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

separate piece of greenish leather or vellum, which was still quite tough and strong. The vessel in which they were contained was in the form of a basket, about 6 inches long, boat-shaped, narrow at both ends, covered with a copper lid, and having a slender bow or handle, also of copper. The lid at one end, had a hinge; and at the other, fastened with a spring slot. The hill on which this interesting discovery was made, overlooks the beautiful green site of the Roman Station of Vindolana:<sup>d</sup> and to the north, the venerable ruins of the Roman wall skirt the horizon; and the gates of the celebrated stations of Borcovicus and Æsica are seen, and the track of the old Roman military way nearly to the walls of Magna, a station, about the time of Hadrian, garrisoned by a cohort of Hamian archery, a people from the antient town of Hamah, on the Orontes, about 62 miles from Aleppo. All these four stations are within the precincts of the parish of Haltwhistle. Mr. Hodgson, the historian of Northumberland, from whose minute-book these notices were taken, is of opinion that this batch of coins was deposited in, or soon after, the year 120, in which Hadrian made his memorable expedition to Britain, as one of them bears cos. II., and the three other cos. III.

<sup>d</sup> See Gent. Mag. for 1833, i. 596, for an account of the scenery about this station and its neighbourhood. [I am induced, from its graphic character, to add this account as an appendix to this tract. I have no doubt of its being from the eloquent pen of Mr. Hodgson, the accomplished Historian of Northumberland.—J. F.]



## The Thorngraston Coins.

### Part ii.

#### Discovery of Roman Coins near *Hexham*.



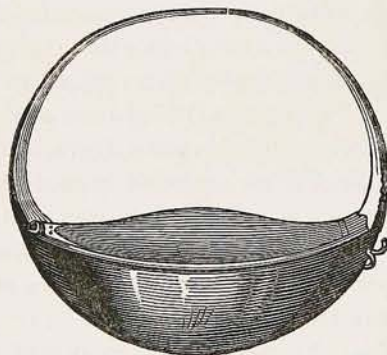
**Mr. Fairless**, who communicates the note of this discovery, says that it took place on the 10th of August last [1837]. The vessel was found about 18 inches under the soil, on a moor near Thorngraston; about a mile from a Roman station, and eleven miles from Hexham. The finder, a quarry-man, taking alarm at the enquiry of the duke of Northumberland's agents, had absented himself. Mr. Fairless succeeded in obtaining a hasty glance at the coins, sixty-three in number, three gold, and sixty silver. The former being of Claudius, Nero, and Vespasian; the silver, from Galba down to Hadrian all in remarkably fine preservation. The collection exactly filled the vessel, and the reverses of the coins were all different; a remarkable fact, which brings to mind some notice of Pinkerton, respecting a discovery of coins in England many years ago, in which the pieces

#### THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

appeared to have been selected for their reverses. The subjoined engraving of the vessel is given from a drawing furnished by Mr. Fairless. It is of brass, and of the form of a basket with a lid which rises on a hinge, and is secured by a spring bolt. The handle is of the same metal, and was broken by the finder.

A correspondent of our revered contemporary *Sylvanus Urban*,<sup>a</sup> says that the three gold coins were each wrapped in a piece of greenish leather or vellum which was still quite strong and tough. The hill on which this discovery took place, overlooks the site of the Roman station of Vindolana.

<sup>a</sup> *Vide* Part I.



## The Thorngraston Coins.

### Part iii.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR TREASURE TROVE,  
IN THE QUEEN'S BENCH.

*The Duke of Northumberland v. Thomas Pattison.*



**n Friday** the 15th Dec., 1837, a writ of enquiry of damages herein, was executed at the Anchor Inn, in Haydon Bridge, before Mr. Gibson, the Under Sheriff of Northumberland, and a respectable jury.

The Under Sheriff having read the writ, Mr. JOHN FENWICK stated, that he appeared before the Court on behalf of the Duke of Northumberland, as Lord of the barony of Wark, one of the most extensive Land Baronies in the kingdom, to obtain satisfaction in damages against the defendant, Thomas Pattison, a quarryman, at Thorngraston, for certain Treasure Trove found by him when working a quarry at that place, and which he had converted to his own use. But before proceeding to detail the facts of the case, he



#### THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

thought it desirable to explain to the jury what Treasure Trove was, and to state the law respecting property of that kind, as cases in which Treasure Trove was the subject of litigation, were but of rare occurrence.

Mr. FENWICK then read an extract from the 3rd Institute of Lord Coke, whom he designated the Father of our Common Law, in which Treasure Trove was stated to be money or coin, gold, silver plate, or bullion, found hidden in the earth, or other private place, the owner thereof being unknown. In such cases, Lord Coke declares, that the treasure belongs to the King, or, as a matter of course, as Mr. F. stated, to his grantee, such grantee being generally the Lord of a Manor or other Liberty. But if he that hid it be known, or afterwards found out, the owner, and not the King or his grantee, was entitled to it. By extracts from Britton and Bracton, two ancient writers of great authority in the law, and Mr. Justice Blackstone, he shewed that if treasure be found in the sea, or upon the earth, it did not belong to the King or his grantee, but to the finder, if no owner appears—that this difference clearly arose from the different intentions which the law implies in the owner. A man who hides his treasure in a secret place, evidently does not mean to relinquish his property, but reserves a right of claiming it again when he sees occasion; and if he dies, the secret dies with him, the law gives it to the King or his grantee. But a man who scatters his treasure into the sea, or upon the public surface of the earth, is construed to have absolutely abandoned his property, and returned it into the common

#### THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

stock, without any intention of reclaiming it, and therefore it belongs, as in a state of nature, to the first occupant or finder, unless the owner appears and asserts his right, which then proves that the loss was by accident, and not with an intent to renounce his property. Mr. Fenwick then stated, that treasure trove was not a Royal privilege peculiar to England, but, according to the celebrated Hugo Grotius, it was recognized by the general law of nations, and observed in Germany, France, Spain, and Denmark. He then detailed the facts of the case. In August last, the defendant, while working in a quarry at Thorngrafton, in a field belonging to Mr. Robert Carrick, found, in the crevice of the rock, a small metal box or case (a model of which Mr. F. laid before the jury); on opening this box, it was found to contain three gold and sixty silver Roman coins. The fellow-workmen of the defendant wished to participate with him in the spoil, but but this he refused to allow; and he has since ceased from his usual work, and has been going up and down the country, exhibiting these coins as great curiosities. As soon as the bailiff of the barony became acquainted with the fact of the treasure being found, he saw defendant and demanded it of him on behalf of the lord of the barony, but no part of it had been delivered up. Before the action was commenced, Mr. F. stated, that he, as steward of the barony, had endeavoured to see the defendant, but without effect. He had, however, sent a message to him by the person with whom he lodged, that if he would deliver up the coins to him, he would recommend the

THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

noble duke to give him a reward ; he, however, labouring, as Mr. F. found, under bad advice, had set all law at defiance, and his Grace was driven to the necessity, either of abandoning the rights of the barony, or of pursuing the steps which he had taken. Whatever might be the result, the defendant would have no person to blame but himself ; he had got possession of property to which he had clearly no right. The defendant imagined the coins to be worth 1000*l.*; in this he was mistaken, for he should shew that 18*l.* was the sum they were worth. In conclusion, Mr. F. told the jury that their business was to administer the law, which the constitution of the country had committed to their care. The law knew no distinction between the prince and the peasant ; in its eye all were equal. They would neither regard the station of one party, nor the other ; but with that impartiality which he had seen them so often exhibit, they would in the strict spirit of the oaths which they had taken, give their verdict according to the evidence which he should lay before them.

*Robert Fisher* and *John Place*, two of the defendant's fellow-workmen, proved the fact of his having found the treasure trove as stated by Mr. FENWICK.

*Mr. Joseph Storey* deposed, that he was bailiff of the barony, that the noble plaintiff was lord, that witness had demanded the treasure trove of the defendant, but that he had not delivered it up.

Mr. FENWICK then put in an act of Parliament, passed in the year 1793, whereby treasure trove found within the barony, with other similar rights, was confirmed to the Lord.



THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

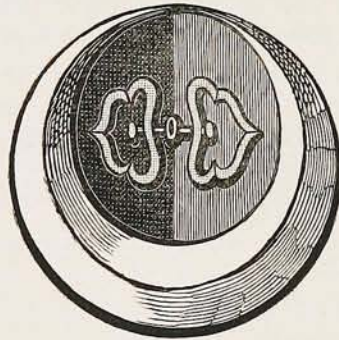
*Mr. Joseph Fairless* then stated : I reside at Hexham ; I have for some years past attended to numismatical pursuits ; the defendant showed me the coins. I made a model of the vessel in which they were found, and a catalogue of the coins. There were three gold coins of Nero, Claudius, and Vespasian : sixty silver coins, one of Nero, three of Galba, one of Otho, fifteen of Vespasian, seven of Domitian, four of Nerva, fifteen of Trajan, three of Adrian, and eleven which I could not appropriate ; they were in good condition. From the best information that I can collect, I think that the gold Nero and Vespasian were worth 2*l.* a piece ; the gold Claudius, 5*l.* ; and the sixty silver, on an average, 3*s.* a piece.

*John Trotter Brockett, Esq., F. S. A.*, was next examined. I have paid great attention to numismatics during the last twenty-five years ; I made a large collection of Greek and Roman coins ; they were sold by public auction, in London, twelve or fourteen year ago, for near 2000*l.* I have since been making another collection, and have about 6000 specimens. About two months ago, two men called upon me with a small collection of gold and silver Roman coins. I have no doubt they were the coins catalogued by Mr. Fairless, though I don't recollect having seen the Claudius ; they were in good but not in fine condition ; the men seemed to think them very valuable : I told them I had copies of the whole of them, and shewed them copies in finer condition than those which they produced ; they appeared much disappointed at my estimate of the coins, I agree with what Mr. Fairless has

THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

stated as to their value, and think that 18*l*. would be a fair price for them.

The UNDER-SHERIFF summed up the evidence; and the Jury immediately returned a verdict of 18*l*. damages.



## The Thorngraston Coins.

### Part iv.



**C**he Coins, sixty-five in number, were contained in a small skiff-shaped receptacle, with a circular handle. The vessel is about six inches long; the lid has a hinge at one end, and fastens with a spring at the other. The coins are at present in the possession of the brother of the quarryman who discovered them, and he holds them with such tenacity, that my artist was refused permission to see even the case which contained them, though he had taken a journey of thirty miles for the purpose of drawing them. Mr. Fairless, of Hexham, was more fortunate, and obtained leave to take sealing-wax impressions of the coins, from which the wood-cuts have been prepared. I am indebted to Mr. Fairless for the description of the coins, which he took from the pieces themselves.



THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.

GOLD.



*Obv.* TI·CLAVD·CAESAR·AVG.  
GERM·P·M·TRIB·POT·P·P.  
*Rev.* NERO CLAVD·CAES.  
DRVSVS·GERM·PRINC·  
IVVENT.



*Obv.* NERO CAESAR AVGVSTVS.  
*Rev.* SALVS.

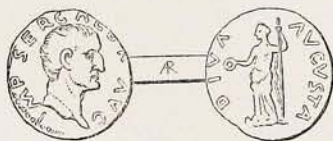


*Obv.* IMP·CAESAR VESPA-  
SIANVS AVG.  
*Rev.* A Victory holding  
a garland over the head  
of a Roman soldier, and  
in the exergue, COS·VIII.

SILVER.

1. *Obv.* IMP·NERO CAESAR AVGVSTVS.

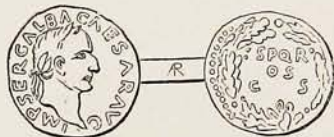
*Rev.* SALVS. Device same as in gold above.



2. *Obv.* IMP·SER·GALBA  
CAESAR AVG.

*Rev.* DIVA AVGVSTA.

THE THORNGRAFT ON COINS.



3. *Obv.* IMP. SER. GALBA  
CAESAR AVG.  
*Rev.* S.P.Q.R. OB. C.S.  
(Within a wreath.)

4. *Obv.* SER. GALBA AVG. *Rev.* Same as last.



5. *Obv.* OTHO CAESAR AVG.  
*Rev.* PONT. MAX.



6. *Obv.* IMP. CAESAR VES-  
PASIANVS AVG.  
*Rev.* IMP. XIX. A basket  
filled with corn or  
bread.



7. *Obv.* CAES. VESP. AVG. P.M. COS. III.  
*Rev.* CONCORDIA AVGVSTI.



- 8.9.10. *Obv.* IMP. CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG.  
*Rev.* PON. MAX. TR.P. COS. VI.



11. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. VESP. AVG. CENS.  
*Rev.* PONTIF. MAXIM.

THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



12. *Obv.* DIVV. AVGVSTVS VESPASIANVS.

*Rev.* No inscription. A figure standing.



13. *Obv.* IMP. VESP. AVG. P. M. COS. VIII.

*Rev.* VES (figure) TA.

14. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. VESPASIANVS AVG.

*Rev.* COS. ITER.—(figure)—TR. POT.



15. *Obv.* Same as last.

*Rev.* cos.—(an eagle standing on cippus)—VII.



16. *Obv.* Inscription same as last.

*Rev.* Reversed goats' heads, bearing a shield.



17. *Obv.* Inscription same as last.

*Rev.* COS. ITER. TR. POT.

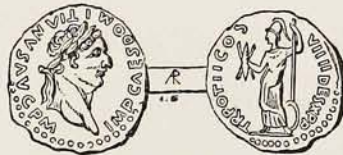


18. *Obv.* Inscription same as last.

*Rev.* GENIVM—(figure)  
—P.R.



THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



19. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. DOMITIANVS AVG. P. M.  
*Rev.* TR. POT. II. COS. VIII. DES. X. P. P.



20. 21. *Obv.* Same as last.

*Rev.* IMP. XXI. COS. XVI. CENS. P. P. P.



22. 23. *Obv.* CAESAR AVG. DOMITIANVS.

*Rev.* COS. IIII. Pegasus.



24. *Obv.* CAES. DOMIT. AVG. GERM. P. M. T. R. P.  
*Rev.* IMP. XIII. COS. XIII. CENS. P. P. P.



25. *Rev.* IMP. XXII. COS. XVI. CENS. P. P. P.



26. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. DOMITIANVS AVG. P. M.

*Rev.* TR. POT. II. COS. VIII. DES. XII.

THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



27 *Obv.* CAES. AVG. DOMIT. COS. III.

*Rev.* PRINCEPS IVENTVT.



28. *Obv.* IMP. NERVA. CAES.  
AVG. P.M. TR.P. COS. III.  
P.R.

*Rev.* FORTVNA P.R.



29. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NERVA.  
TRAIAN. AVG. GERM.

*Rev.* PONT. MAX. TR.  
POT. COS. II.



30. 31. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NERVA TRAIAN.  
AVG.

*Rev.* P.M. TR.P. COS. VI. P.P. S.P.Q.R.



32. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO  
AVG. GER. DAC. P. M.  
TR.P.

*Rev.* COS. V. P.P. S.P.Q.R.  
OPTIMO PRINC.



33. 34. 35. *Rev.* COS. V. P.P. S.P.Q.R.  
OPTIMO PRINC.

THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



36. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. P.M.  
TR.P. COS. V. P.P.  
*Rev.* S.P.Q.R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI.



37. *Obv.* Same as last.  
*Rev.* S.P.Q.R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI.  
*Exergue.* FORT. RED.



38. Same as before.  
*Exergue.* PAX.



39. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO  
OPTIMO AVG. GER.  
DAC. P.M. TR.P.  
*Rev.* COS. VI. P.P.  
S.P.Q.R.



40. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NERVA TRAIANO  
OPTIMO AVG. GER. DAC.

*Rev.* P.M. TR.P. COS. VI. P.P. S.P.Q.R.

41. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NERVA TRAIAN. AVG. GERM.



THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



42. 43. *Obv.* IMP. CAES. NERVA  
TRAIAN. AVG. GERM.  
*Rev.* P.M. TR. P. COS II.  
P.P.



44. Same as 40. with *Exergue*. TRO—VIO.



45. *Obv.* IMP. TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC.  
P.M. TR.P.

*Rev.* COS.V. P.P. S.P.Q.R. OPTIMO PRINC.



46. The same as last.



47. Same as last. Seated figure, the  
right hand extended, holding a  
Victory.



48. *Obv.* IMP. CAESAR TRA-  
IAN. HADRIANVS AVG.  
*Rev.* P.M. TR.P. COS.  
III.



THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



49. *Obv.* Same as last.

*Exergue.* FEL.P.R. (doubtful.)

*Rev.* P.M. TR.P. COS. III.



50. *Obv.* IMP. CAESAR TRAIAN. HADRIANVS AVG.

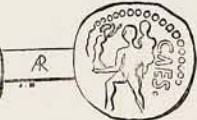
*Rev.* P.M.TR.P. COS. III.

PIE—TAS, in the field.

51. *Obv.* Same as last.

*Rev.* P.M.TR.P. COS. III.

CONSULAR AND OTHERS.



THE THORNGRAFTON COINS.



This coin symbolizes the peace concluded between the Roman general Scaurus and the Arabian monarch Aretas.





## Appendix.

**A**kenside has sung, and some few writers have described, the beauties of the Northumberland glens and valleys ; but no author has ever yet done justice to the ever-varying, the wild and lovely scenery of the river Tyne, and its two arms, and numerous tributary streams. A master amateur artist has, indeed, sat on all their banks, and transcribed their rocks, and trees, and castles, and towers, and brown waters, and foaming lins, and purple air, into his enchanted portfolios ; and who is there in Northumberland who has not seen the scenery of the Tyne, and the crags and the cranes, and the heathery banks, and the yellow foam of the water-falls of the Lewis and Oakenshaw burns rise under the magic pencil of Swinburne,<sup>a</sup> and glowing on the walls of the mansions of his friends ? I, too, have been an adorer of Nature on the banks of this river, and have wandered upon them early and late and gone up almost all her wild burns to their sources. I have gathered plants, and sought for fossils and minerals, and traced the strata of the mountains up the dark waters of the Keildur, and over the lins of the Lewis and Oakenshaw burns, and collected the beautiful ebon coloured and agatized flints, which abound in the banks and the beds of these streams. I have traversed the marble and basaltic floors of Gildurdale-beck ; sought out the wild haunts of the rapid Thornhope, and the headlong Knar ; and seen the wild flowers, the

<sup>a</sup> The late Edward Swinburne, esq., of the ancient house of Capheaton, whose splendid abilities as an artist were only equalled by his excellency of character as a man.—*J. F.*

#### APPENDIX.

mosses, and marcantias, on the brows and the stony channels of the oak and alder-shaded sides of Glendue and Glencoyne, near Lambley, and the chosen retreats of Nature about Featherstone castle: but none of the water nymphs or elves of Northumberland has a wilder, a lovelier, or a more classic range of scenery to rove in than the *Chineley-burn*. She collects her waters from streamlets that rise beyond the famous Roman barriers—the dyke of Hadrian, and the wall of stone attributed to Severus. One of her rills comes from the smooth osidian mirror of *Craig-lough*, one of the many moorland lakes, from which the district in which they lie is called the forest of Lowes or Loughs. Craig-lough has a range of high basaltic cliffs, frowning over its southern margin, and which, many centuries since, were crowned with the turreted ramparts of the Roman Wall, and are still deeply scarred with its foundations and ruins. This rill, soon after leaving the lake, passes “Bradley, on the Marches of Scotland,” where Edward the First, the “*Scottorum Malleus*,” in his last expedition against that country, and in his last sickness, halted for two days in September, 1306, and tested different public documents.

*Brooky-burn*, a second branch of *Chineley-burn*, rises to the west of Craig-lough, on *Lodum*, another high basaltic hill, the brow of which is also traversed with the ruins of the Roman wall, of which, for considerable distances together, from five to seven courses of stones are still remaining in their original beds. From the top of this hill, the prospect to the west, through the Nine Nicks of Thirlwall, extends into Galloway, far beyond Dumfries, to the Criffell Hills; and along the coast of the Irish Channel as far as Whitehaven, all the plain, and the western mountains of Cumberland, and the line of the Roman wall to its utmost extremity at Solway firth, lie mapped before you in this direction. To the north, Tarnbecks, at Irthinghead, appears seated in the centre of the broadest mosses and moors in England; and over it, the blue heads of Pearl-fell and Mid-fell, above Keildur Castle. On the east the heights of the Moct-law, and the plantations of Minster Acres, bound the horizon. Crossfell, air-tinted and high, rises in the south; and, between it

#### APPENDIX.

and the eye, you have a broad picture of the fine woods and meadows, and the great shining mirror of the South Tyne, about Lord Wallace's seat at Featherstone castle. On the south side of Lodum is Snelgile, a deep and dark gash in the basaltic rock, which collects the first waters of this branch of Chineley-burn; and, farther down its side, in the crevices of moist parts of the rock, *allium schoenoprasum*, chive-garlick, that never knew garden culture throws out its blossoms in June. After crossing the military way, Brooky-burn begins to tune her harp, and hide her course under woody banks, as she speeds away to her nuptials with the nut-brown daughter of Craig-lough. A good way down her course, in a solitary place on her right bank, is a long scar of soft black schist, embedded with iron stones, some apparently of the septaria kind, and others flat and round, as if they had been the chambers of some antient species of Nautilus. This scar could not, I think, (but my examination of it was slight) fail to afford to the crucible, the blow-pipe, and the microscope, interesting subjects of research.

*Knag-burn*, the third and most easterly source of Chineley-burn rises also in the mosses beyond the Roman wall, which it crosses at Borcovicum, the Palmyra of Britain; and, after flowing through the ruins of the bath of that famous station, empties itself, at the distance of about a mile, into Grindon Lough, another of the lakes of the Forest of Lowes, out of which it finds its way by a subterraneous course of two miles at least, through a stratum of limestone into Chineley-burn, a little below the junction of the Craig-lough and Brooky-burns.

The name *Chineley* may be derived from the brook, near the junction of its three branches, beginning to cut off Borcum, a high hill on its left bank, from a *chine* or ridge, or *backbone of land*, that extends a great way to the west. After running between this ridge and Borcum, through a deep narrow gorge, and toiling as it passes in the wheels of Bardon Mills, it assumes the name of *Bardon burn*, and under this metamorphosis, strikes its chords in still higher strains to the villagers of Millhouse; and soon after is hushed, and vanishes in the Tyne.



# APPENDIX.

Just at the head of the gorge, and immediately below the meeting of the Craig-lough and the Brooky-burns, stands *Chesterholme*—in a lovely and a sequestered spot—"procul arte, procul formidine novi." It is a sweet picture of mosaic work, inlaid upon an emerald gem: a cottage in the Abbotsford style, upon one of those charming green holms, or meadows, bordering upon a river, which in Northumberland are very generally called *haughs*. The Rev. A. Hedley, M.A., who built it about a year since, and now resides in it, was an intimate friend of the Great Talisman of Historical Romance. The heath-headed and pillar-crowned mountain of Borcum towers above it on the south-east. On the west, a steep green bank, shelved

<sup>b</sup> The late Mr. Eates, when about to quit Ridley Hall, in Northumberland, entertained various parties of his friends at that very beautiful residence. It happened that Mr. Hedley, a name which I can never mention without feelings of the sincerest respect for his memory, and I, were invited to Ridley Hall at the same time. One morning he asked me to ride with him to examine his station, VINDOLANA. After examining in detail this interesting remains of Roman power, and hearing him expatiate in his glowing style on the several parts of the station, we went through the remainder of his estate. When we came to the site of Chesterholme House, I was overpowered with the beauty of the scene, and giving vent to my feelings, I exclaimed, "If this property were mine, I should build a cottage *ornie* on this spot." He immediately replied, "I will build such a cottage." From this simple incident Chesterholme House owes its existence. It is built of stones from Vindolana, on the surface of which an English tool never operated. I visited him once after he was comfortably settled in this most enviable situation, where I not only partook of his hospitalities, but enjoyed an intellectual feast of the first order. But, to use an idea of Gibbon, in his *Decline and Fall*, I may say, that "the angel of Death was then waiting for him" at Vindolana! and with many good men, I had soon to lament the loss of a friend whom to know was at once to admire and to love.—J. F.

<sup>c</sup> Mr. Hedley, in one of his visits to Abbotsford, was pressed to stay some time longer than his invitation extended to; but, knowing that much company was expected on the day he should have left, he endeavoured to obtain his release, through fear of crowding the house. "Take ye no heed of that; ye shall be comfortably lodged, and incommode nobody," was sir Walter's reply. After the whole of the party had retired to rest, the baronet took a lanthorn and conducted Mr. H. through an open court into a passage, which led to a snug suite of sleeping apartments, and said, "Ye see, Maister Hedley, this is over my stables—a hundred years since I would ha' trusted never a Northumberland borderer to sleep sae near my horses."

APPENDIX.

by parallel cattle-trods, hence, perhaps, called Skelf-me-delf, has its brow compassed with the ruins of the ramparts of the Roman station of Viudolana, and closes the prospect. On the north, the two woody denes, which branch off at a neat farm-house, snugly seated between the meetings of the Craig-lough and Chineley-burns, and one hundred yards or so above the cottage, soon steal out of sight, and wind away in different directions, through rising pasture grounds, which skirt the borders of the sky ; and on the south, the united mountain stream glides from pool to pool, through broad crevices of dove-coloured marble, and under a rustic wooden bridge, till it is suddenly thrown aside by a high sandstone cliff, dappled with lichens, and overhung with variegated woods. All this enchanted bowl has sides as chastely ornamented with works of nature and design as the shield of Achilles was with the works of art. It is, indeed, like the bowls which Virgil speaks of "*asperum signis*," crisply carved with figures. I do not know where I could take an admirer of simple scenery and antiquarian objects, better than to the cottage of Chesterholme. About its sunny garden, fragments of the pillars of antient baths and temples are entwined with roses or climbing plants. From one door you look down a covered passage built of stones carved by Roman hands, and opening upon the tree-fringed sides, and the rocky channel of the Chineley-burn, where you have hazels and hegberry, and alder, and broad plane trees, and the undying sounds of waters ; and the sides of the passage formed of altars and bas-reliefs, and its cordon of broad stones, moulded in front, pierced in the upper surfaces with lewis holes, and which once supported the battlements of the walls and gates of Vindolana. An arcade, too, has been here built for the reception of antiquities found in that station, which already contains some exceedingly fine altars, and other inscribed stones. One of them is dedicated, by an Italian prefect of the Fourth Cohort of the Gauls, to Jupiter and the rest of the immortal Gods, and the Genius of the place, which Cohort the *Notitia Imperii* places at Vindolana, so that the altar and the *Notitia* unite in proving the identity of the station. There is also here another fine altar to Jupiter, the Genius, and the guardian

#### APPENDIX.

Gods; and one, simply, "Sacred to the Genius of the Pretorium;" besides a small one, DEO NEPTUNO SARABO SINO, and another, VETEREBUS POS. SENACULUS.

Few places have been richer in inscribed stones than Vindolana. Camden and Cotton carried away one to the Syrian Goddess; others have been dispersed and lost; and it would be well if such as have been discovered in latter years, and in the generous warmth of friendship given to different collections before Mr. Hedley came to reside here, were restored to the classic arcade at Chesterholme. Formerly Vindolana was called, in English, The Bowers, and the Bowers-in-the-wood; and latterly its name has been Little Chesters. Much of its walls still remain; in one place, thirteen courses of them have been bared; and, both within and without them, the rich green-sward, that covers all their vicinity, has the custody of the carcases of numerous Roman buildings.

Chesterholme, too, has its Museum, formed, since the date of this paper, for the reception of cabinet antiquities, found in researches in Vindolana; and this, in January 1833, was enriched by a spear-head about a foot long, the umbo or boss of a shield, and nearly three hundred brass coins, found among the ruins of one of the towers of the western gateway. The coins belong to the Emperors Constantinus, Constantius, Constans, and the tyrant Magnentius, and were strewn over one of the moulded cordon stones of the tower, and intermixed with the soil above and about it.

Just to the north of the station an antient Roman road, now called the *Cawsey*, and formerly *Carlisle Street*, passed from the North Tyne to *Cærvoran*, the *Magna* of the Romans, which, as well as Vindolana, *Borcovicus*, and *Æsica*, is situated within the parish of Haltwhistle. Here, between the meeting of the *Craig-lough* and *Brooky-burns*, is a large tumulus of earth, and by the side of it, a tall, round, but uninscribed mile pillar; and a mile further west, another similar pillar stood on the north side of the *Cawsey*, till it was some years since split into two posts, for the gate about thirty or forty yards to the west of its ancient site.

Below a rustic wooden bridge, and the Sandstone scar, which shut



APPENDIX.

out the prospect to the south from the windows at Chesterholme, and amidst huge masses of fallen rock, that ruffle and befoam its winter torrent, Chineley-burn is fed with the underground stream from Grindon-lough. It boils up through wide chinks of the limestone, which forms the bed of the burn. Chaff thrown into Grindon-lough rises up here; and from this place, for nearly a mile below, the course of the burn is rapid, and its bistre-coloured waters, in floods, dash from side to side; and the rocky bank on the left is in some places clothed with wood, and in others, in spring, superciliated with the golden flowers of broom, and in autumn with deep fringes of withering fern. The right bank is generally more upon a slope, and interspersed with forest trees, and divided into small enclosures of pasture and meadow, by quickset hedges of unshorn hazel and hawthorn. Two farm houses, too, though in secluded situations, enliven the solitude that reigns around them. One of these, called Low Foggerish, is at the lower end of a dene or dell, and has, at its west end, a thick grove of oaks, all overhung with ivy. Old apple and plum trees, luxuriant in growth, but wild and unpruned, and a garden filled with grosier bushes that have never felt the knife, half surround this lonely habitation, which in olden time would have been admirably suited for

the residence of one that could wish to deal in the unearthly mysteries of which the dark hieroglyphics, carved on a stone in its front, seem to be the symbols. The annexed sketch of this curious stone was made in July last. Here we have the umbilicated moon in her state of opposition to the sun, and the sign of fruitfulness. She was also, in the doctrines of



#### APPENDIX.

Sabaïsm, the northern gate, by which Mercury conducted souls to birth, as mentioned by Homer in his description of the Cave of the Nymphs, and upon which there remains a commentary by Porphyry. Of this cave Homer says :

Fountains it had eternal, and two gates,  
The northern one to men admittance gives ;  
That to the south is more divine—a way  
Untrod by men—t'Immortals only known."

The *Cross*, in gentile rites, was the symbol of reproduction and resurrection. It was, as Shaw remarks, "the same with the ineffable image of eternity that is taken notice of by Suidas." The *Crescent* was the lunar ship or ark that bore, in Mr. Faber's language, the Great Father and the Great Mother over the waters of the deluge ; and it was also the emblem of the boat or ship which took aspirants over the lakes or arms of the sea to the Sacred Islands, to which they resorted for initiation into the mysteries ; and over the river of death to the mansions of Elysium. The *Cockatrice* was the snake-god. It was also the basilisk or cock-adder. "Habet caudem ut coluber, residuum vero corpus ut gallus." The Egyptians considered the basilisk as the emblem of eternal ages : esse quia vero videtur ζῶης κυριεύειν καὶ θανάτου, ex auro conformatum capitibus deorum appingebant Ægyptii.' What relation had this with the Nehustan or Brazen Serpent, to which the Israelites paid divine honours in the time of Hezekiah ? What is the circle with the seasons at the equinoxes and solstices marked upon it?—the signs of the four great Pagan festivals, celebrated at the commencement of each of these seasons ? The corner of the stone which is broken off, probably contained some symbol. I am not hierophant enough to unriddle and explain the hidden tale of this combination of hieroglyphics. We know that the sea goat and the Pegasus on tablets and centurial stones found on the walls of Severus and Antoninus, were badges of the second, and the boar of the twentieth legion ; but this bas-relief seems to refer, in some dark manner, to matters connected

APPENDIX.

with the antient heathen mysteries. The form of the border around them is remarkable. The stone which bears them was, I apprehend, brought in its present form from Vindolana, where, as I have observed, an inscription to the Syrian goddess was formerly found. The station of Magna also, a few years since, produced a long inscription to the same goddess in the Iambic verse of the Latin comedians; and a cave, containing altars to Mithras, and a bust of that god, seated between the two hemispheres, and surrounded by the twelve signs of the Zodiac, besides other signs and *ἄγλαματα* of the Persian god, was opened at Borcovicus only about ten years since. These, therefore, and other similar remains found in the Roman stations in the neighbourhood of Vindolana, induce me to think, that the symbols under consideration, and now for the first time taken notice of, were originally placed near the altars of some divinity in the station of the Bowers-in-the-Wood. I know of no establishment that the Knights Templars had in this neighbourhood.

V. W.







---

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE:  
IMPRINTED BY GEORGE BOUCHIER RICHARDSON, 33 CLAYTON STREET, WEST,  
AT THE SIGN OF THE RIVER-GOD TYNE.

---