

II. *A Discourse occasion'd by an Inscription found, about Three Tears ago, at Langchester in the Bishoprick of Durham, and communicated to the Royal Society from Dr. Hunter by Dr. Woodward, as it is printed in the Philosophical Transactions, N^o 354. By Roger Gale, Esq; R. S. S.*

DR. Hunter, who communicated this Inscription, having only given us his Conjectures as to the first fortifying the Place where it was found, and the Time of its Repair after it had been destroy'd, but said nothing relating to the Explanation of the Inscription itself, tho' extremely curious; it will not, I hope, be taken amiss, if I offer some Thoughts that occur'd to me at first sight of it, and afterwards induced me to put together what follows upon that Subject. I shall not in the least dispute or call in question the Time of its Foundation, as fix'd by the Doctor, but begin with the Place where it was discover'd, namely *Langchester* or *Lancaster*, in the Bishoprick of *Durham*, which I am, ¹ with him, fully persuaded was the *Longovicus*, where the *Notitia Imperii* places the ² *Numerus Longovicariorum*.

This place is seated upon a great Military Way, about 12 Miles distance from *Binchester*, and 7 from *Ebchester*, the one the *Vinovia*, and the other the *Vindomora* of *Antoninus*, as the Correspondence of the Numbers may evince; *Binchester* being 19 Roman Miles from *Ebchester*, as that is 9 from *Corbridge*, the exact Numbers the *Itinerary* gives us between *Vinovia*, *Vindomora*, and *Corstopitum*. What is very strange is, that the *Itinerary*, which must go upon the great Road directly thro' this

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Town

¹ *Philosoph. Transf.* N^o 266. p. 657.

² *Not. Imp.* fol. 176.

Town of *Longovicus* betwixt *Vindomora* and *Vinovia*, takes not the least Notice of it, but measures the Way at the whole Length and Number of Miles, from the first to the latter of those Stations. If *Longovicus* was founded, as Dr. *Hunter* supposes³, so early as the Time of *Julius Agricola*, and if that *Itinerary* was composed by any of the Emperors that bore the Name of *Antoninus*, this Station might have been destroyed or deserted during the Wars with the *Britains* and not being repaired till the Reign of *Gordian III.* was pass'd over by the Author of the *Itinerary*, as a Camp not then in being, or of no use to the *Roman* Armies; and this would be no weak Argument for the Antiquity of that Work: And perhaps some Parts of it may have been described as early as the Reigns of those Emperors, or earlier, and such Names of more modern Places as are found in it, may have been afterwards added as Occasion required. As a farther Confirmation of this Conjecture, I beg leave to observe, that this Place, after it was repaired by *Gordian*, subsisted even to the Ruine of the *Roman* Empire in *Britain*, as is evident by the Mention of it in the *Notitia Imperii*; so that had this⁴ Journey which carries us from *Vindomora* to *Vinovia* been compos'd after the Reign of *Gordian*, it would be very hard to account for the Omission of this remarkable Station and Town, as it appears to have been from this, and many other Inscriptions found there.

Having this Opportunity of doing it I am unwilling to let it slip without rectifying a Mistake in the⁵ *Jay towards the Recovery of the Roman Highways thro' Britain*, printed in the 6th Volume of Mr. *Hearne's* *Itinerary of Ireland*, which having brought the *Ermingstreet* (not the *Watlingstreet*, as Dr. *Hunter* and the Country call it) a little beyond *Cattarick* in *Yorkshire*, divides it there into two Branches,

Pb. Trans. N^o 354. p. 702. ⁴ *Iter. I. a Limite Prætor. usq;* ⁵ P. III, IIII.

Branches, tracing one of them to *Tinmouth*, and the other to *arlist*: but omits the main Stemm of it, that runs almost directly Northward to *Piercebridge*, so to *Denton*, *Houghton*, *Binchester*, *Langchester*, *Ebchester*, *Corbridge*, and through the Heart of *Northumberland* into *Scotland*, about a Mile and a half to the West of *Bermick*. It is in several places very intire and fair, especially between *Corbridge* and *Binchester*, the Ridge of it there being for the most part two Yards in Height above the Level of the Soil, no les than Eight Yards broad, and all pav'd with Stones, that are as even as if new laid: as I am inform'd by the ingenious *Mr. Warburton*, who has often view'd it, and to whom we are obliged for the most accurate and useful Map of the County of *Northumberland* that was ever yet publish'd. This Digression, if it may be so call'd, I hope will be excus'd, since it not only sets right an Error, but acquaints you with a noble *Roman Way*, scarcely yet known or observ'd by any body.

Having fix'd the Seat of this *Longovicus*, where the Inscription was found, let us consider next what sort of a Place it was; and upon due Enquiry it will appear to have been one of the most ancient and eminent Stations the *Romans* were possess'd of in these Parts. As to its Antiquity, *Dr. Hunter* has made it probable, that we ought to look for it as high as *Julius Agricola's* commanding under *Domitian*, in this Island: As to its Eminency, the Inscription that came last from him to the Society as well as several others found there, is an undeniable Evidence of its being a Place of great Consideration; but nothing can put that more out of Dispute than the first which was some Years ago transmitted by the same Hand⁶, which therefore I beg leave to insert here with that which came last from him, and the rather because little or nothing has ever been said upon it, and that they will give great Light one to the other.

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IMP

⁶ *Phil. Transf.* N^o 266.

IMP·CÆS·M·NT·G°RDIA
 N_vS·P·F·AVG·B^ALNE_vM·C_vM
 B^AS_IL_IC^A·A·L^O·IN^STRV_XIT
 PRE_{FG}NE_vCLAN_vM·LE_G·AVG
 PR·PR·C_vGRNT_E·M·AVR
 QVIRINO PRE_CHILGR

II.

IMP CÆSAR·M·ANT°N_IVS
 G°RDLIANVS·P·F·AVG·
 PRINCIPIA·ET·ARMAMEN
 TARIA·CON_APSA·RE_SIT_v
 IT·PER·MEGE_vVM·FV_SC_vM·LEG
 AVG·PR·PR·C_vGRANTE·M·AVR
 QVIRINO·PR·C_H·I·L·GOR·

The Stone whereon the first is cut has been broke in two, whereby some of the Letters are defaced, however, it may be very well read as follows; the Letters PRE in the fourth Line I take to be a Mistake of the Workman, having seen several Copies, where they are so transcribed; that they should be PER is evident from the fifth Line of the second Inscription.

- I. *Imperator Caesar Marcus Antonius Gordianus
Pius Felix Augustus Balneum cum
Basilica à solo instruxit
Per Cnctum Lucilianum Legatum Augustalem
Propratorem Curante Marco Aurelio
Quirino Prefecto cohortis primæ Longovicariorum; or
rather, Legionis Gordianæ.*

The second can be read only after the following manner.

- II. *Imperator Caesar Marcus Antonius
Gordianus Pius Felix Augustus
Principia & Armamentaria
Conlapsa restituit
Per Macilium Fuscum Legatum
Augustalem Propratorem curante Marco Aurelio
Quirino Prefecto Cohortis primæ Legionis Gordianæ.*

From these Two Inscriptions compar'd together, it will be apparent that they were not only erected under the same Emperor, but by the Care of the very same Person *Aurelius Quirinus*, tho' not in the same Year. The Emperor can be no other than *Gordianus* the youngest, or third of that Name; the two former having been slain so very soon after they had assumed the Purple, that it is improbable they should have gi-

ven any Orders or Commands for the erecting of new, and repairing of antient buildings, in so remote a Province as *Britain* was from *Africa*, where they were murder'd after a short joint Reign of scarce seven Weeks.

Dr. *Hunter* tells us, that that which was first discover'd (and which I shall therefore always distinguish by the Name of the first) was dug up about a Hundred Yards East from a great Square, which had been fortified with a thick, strong Wall, faced with hewen Stone, within which, and without, especially towards the East, are nothing but ruinous Heaps of Stone, and thinks the Lodging of the Garison only to have been included within those Walls. His Conjecture is very much confirmed by the ² Account he gives us of the finding the last Inscription within that square Inclosure ; so that there seems to have been at this *Longovicus* a large Town, and one of those Camps call'd *Castra stativa*, where the Legions lay in Quarters during the time of Peace and Quiet.

The first Inscription tells us, that the Emperor *Gordian* built the *Balneum* and *Basilica* from the Ground, à Solo ; whereas, by the second he appears to have been only the Repairer of the *Principia* and *Armentaria*. Perhaps therefore here might be no Town, till the *Romans* thought fit to repair their old deserted Camp at this Place, and then the Emperor might also build the *Bath* and Palace for the Residence of the *Proprator*, when in these Parts of *Britain* ; the Word *Basilica* importing both a Palace, and an Edifice for hearing of Causes, and transacting all publick Affairs. As this eminent Building was erected by the Emperor's Command, it is an undeniable Argument of the Splendor of this Town, as are the great Heaps of Rubbish, and Ruines, where
this

1 *Phil. Transj.* N° 266. p. 658.

2 *Phil. Transj.* N° 354.

this Inscription was found, of its Largeness and Extent

The second equally puts the being of the *Castrum stationum* out of dispute, when it acquaints us with the Rebuilding of the *Armamentaria* and *Principia* there, that is the *Arcenal* and *Quarters* either of the Legionary Soldiers, that were call'd the *Principes*, or the place where the Eagles and other military Ensigns were kept. It is probable they did not belong to one particular Legion, but to several, as they had occasion to be employ'd here; ¹ tho' the *Legio sexta Victrix* seems to have the best Title to them, as being constantly quarter'd in the North; whereas, the ² *Legio Secunda*, and ³ *Vicesima* were generally garrison'd, the first at *Caerleon* in *Wales* and *Richburrow* in *Kent*. and the other at and about *Chester*; so that the ⁴ Monuments they have left in the North were erected by them. when the Wars, and other Works, as particularly the *Wall* carry'd cross the Island, call'd them thither; which being finish'd, they returned home to their more Southern Quarters, and continu'd in them till commanded Abroad upon new Services. I will not pretend to determin when these *Armamentaria* and *Principia* first fell to ruin; perhaps it might be when *Hadrian*, *Lollius Urbicus* and *Severus* had carried their Conquests farther into the Enemy's Country, and having built those famous *Wall*, the Relicks of which we still see in the Shire of *Sterling* in *Scotland*, and in *Northumberland* and *Cumberland* in *England*, that this Camp might be thought useles, the *Roman Forces* being drawn nearer to, and quarter'd upon the Frontiers; and so this Fortres abandoned and suffer'd to fall into decay, as the Word *conlapsa* implies: and not that it was

¹ *Ptol. Leg. VI. Niceph. Ebor locat.* ² *Anton. Itin. XII. Not Imp.*
³ *Anton. Itin. II.* ⁴ *Camd. p. 835, 920. Phil. Transj. N^o 269*

was destroy'd by any Fire, War, or other Enemy than Age and Neglect.

Tho' the Word *conlapsa* is wrote here with an *N*, there can be no doubt but the Pronunciation of it was as we usually find it spelt, *collapsa*; a certain Argument of the Letter *N*'s being silent in the middle of a Word, before two Consonants, especially *NS*, and *NT*, when the *T* was pronounced like an *S*. To omit what ¹ *Quintilian* says to this purpose, it is confirm'd by the Absence of that Letter in numberless Inscriptions in *Gruter*, *Reinesius*, &c. and no wonder, since the Workmen in those Days, as well as ours, usually wrote as they spoke their Words. I shall not trouble you with Quotations of any of them to this end, but as a Proof of what I say, only assure you from ocular Inspection and a most accurate Examination, that there is no transverse Line over the Letters *ES* belonging to the Word *FABRICESIS* in the Inscription of *IVL. VITALI* at *Bath*, whatever has been affirm'd to the contrary, but that the Letter *N* is totally omitted there. You will also pardon my Endeavours, before I leave this Subject, to explain a short Inscription belonging to some of our Countrymen, tho' found at *Amerbach* in *Germany* ², since it will be a new Proof of the foregoing Assertion.

III.

NYMPHIS ☉	<i>Nymphis.</i>
N☉BRITTON	<i>Numerus Brittonum</i>
TRIPVTIEN	<i>Triputiensis, or —enus</i>
SVB CVRA ☉	<i>Sub cura</i>
M☉VLPI	<i>Marci Ulpii</i>
MALCHI☉	<i>Malchi</i>
▷LEG XXII	<i>Centurionis Leg. 22.</i>
PR ☉ P ☉ F ☉	<i>Primigeniæ, Piæ, Felicis.</i>

There

¹ *Quintil. Instit. Lib. I. c. 7.*

² *Gruter. p. xciii.*

There is no Difficulty but in the Word TRIPVTIEN, and that will presently vanish if you insert the Letter N, and read it TRIPVNT, *i. e.* *Tripontienus* or *Tripontiensis*, the Mutation of the O and V being so frequent, that no body is ignorant of it. This will bring you to *Tripontium*¹ or *Dowbridge* in *Northamptonshire*; tho' that excellent Antiquary Dr. *Battely*², in his *Antiquitates Rutupinæ*, would read it RIPVTIEN, and fix'd the Place whence this *Numerus* took its Appellation at *Richburrow* in *Kent*.

But to return where we left the Camp at *Longovicus*, it will be as difficult to assign a Reason for its being repaired, as it was for its being deserted; unless that the *Proprators* might judge it advisable about the Time of *Gordian* III. to fix their Residence there, and consequently refortify the old Camp for their State and Security. And that it was not refortify'd upon any sudden Emergency, but for Time and Duration, is evident both from the strong Stone-Works that encompass'd it, and a Body of Forces lying here, even at the Expiration of the *Roman* Empire and Authority in this Island, which from its Continuance in the same Station, had got the Name of the *Longovicarii*³.

The Person that under the Emperor gave Direction for these Repairs, was *Mæcilius Fuscus*: As *Mæcilius* is a Diminutive of *Mæcius*, it is not unlikely that he was the Son of *Mæcius Fuscus*, who was Consul with *Turpilinus Dexter*, A. D. 225. in the Reign of *Alexander Severus*: By this Inscription it appears that this *Mæcilius* was the Emperor *Gordian's* Lieutenant here and *Proprator*; For tho' in *Phil. Transact.* N^o 354, by the Inadvertency of the Engraver, we read only PR. instead of PR. PR; it is right in the Original, and in the Trans-

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script

¹ *Antonin. Itin.* VI,² p. 21.³ *Notit. Imp.* fol. 176. b.

script sent up by Dr. Hunter, and accordingly in pag. 825. the Fault is amended. And as the Name of *Fuscus* stands in the same Place in the second as that of *Lucilianus* does in the first, and with the same Adjuncts both before and after, we may fairly conclude he was either his Predecessor or Successor, but which, it is impossible to determin.

And here, perhaps, it may not be amiss to remark, we never meet with a *Legatus Augustalis* in any Inscription in this Island, without the joint Title of *Proprator*; and ¹ *Tacitus* himself either makes them the same Office, or at least unites them in the same Person, when he tells us, *In Britannia P. Ostorium Propratorum turbide res excipere*; and having presently after related the manner of the Fight with the *Iceni*, styles him *Legatus, Quam pugnam filius Legati, M. Ostorius, servati civis decus meruit* ²; and a little after he gives both the same Titles to *A. Didius* the Successor of *Ostorius*.

We are indebted therefore to these two Monuments, not only for the Account they have preserved of the *Roman Arms* and Magnificence at *Longovicus*, but for the indisputable Records of the Names of two *Legates* and *Proprators* of *Britain*, that would otherwise have been buried in Oblivion, viz. *Cneius Lucilianus* and *Marcilius Fuscus*: For from *Virius Lupus* (who was *Proprator* and *Legate* here about the Year 208, under *Severus*, and just before that Emperor's coming into this Island repaired a Bath burnt down at *Lavatrae*, or *Bowes* ³, in *Yorkshire*) we have no where extant the Name of one of those Officers, till we come to *Nonnius Philippus*, whom I take to have succeeded the last of these; the ⁴ Stone which was found at *Old Carlisle*
in

¹ *Tac. Lib. Ann. xli. c. 32.*
Edit. 1695.

² *Ibid. c. 37.*

³ *Camd. p. 762.*

⁴ *Camd. Britan. p. 830.*

in *Cumberland*, and has preserv'd his Memory, setting forth that he was *Legate* and *Proprator* when *Atticus* and *Pratextatus* were *Consuls*, which was *A. D.* 242. the very Year that our *Gordian* went upon his *Persian* Expedition, from which he never return'd. And as that Emperor left *Nonnius Philippus* in that Post, when he march'd into the East, where he was murder'd about two Years after, it is highly probable that he was the last *Proprator* of his appointing, and consequently, that *Macilius Fuscus* was his Predecessor, and the Repairs begun at *Longovicus* before the Year 243¹. I would not have troubled you with this Inscription, but that it is faultily transcribed in *Camden*, and that I shall have occasion by-and-by to refer to it again, upon a material Point, which therefore I hope will plead my Pardon.

IV.

I. O. M.

PRO. SALVTE. IMPERATORIS
M. ANTONI. GORDIANI. P. F.
INVICTI. AVG. ET. SABINAE. FVR
IE. TRANQVILE. CONIVGI. EIVS. TO
TAQVE. DOMV. DIVIN. EORVM. A
LA. AVG. GORDIA. OB VIRTVTEM
APPELLAT. POSVIT. CVI. PRAEEST
AIMILIVS. CRISPINVS. PREF
EQQ. NATVS. IN. PRO. AFRICA DE
TVSDRO. SVB. CVR. NONNII. PHI
LIPI. LEG. AVG. PROPRETO.
ATTICO. ET. PRETEXTATO COSS.

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¹ *Philos. Transact.* N^o 354. p. 702.

The Person who had the Care of these Repairs both in Town and Camp, was *Marcus Aurelius Quirinus*, *Præfect* or *Commander* of a Company of Foot; another Argument for the Proprietors *Lucilianus* and *Fuscus* succeeding immediately one the other, he serving in the same Post under both. I must observe however, that altho' the two first Inscriptions have been cut very near the same time, and by the same Hand, as appears by the Form of the Letters, and Manner of the Abbreviations in each of them, yet the Office that this *Quirinus* bore is something differently express'd in the first from what it is in the second, if they have been accurately transcribed; the First shewing, after *QVIRINO* the Letters *PRE. CH. I. L. G. R.*, which, before I had seen the Latter, I was induced to read *Præfecto Cohortis primæ Longovicariorum*, the *Notitia Imperii* placing the *Præfectus numeri Longovicariorum Longovico*. That *Numerus* and *Cohors* were the same thing, ² *Pancirollus*, in his Notes upon that Book, quotes *St. Chrysostome* to prove, and some others, *Cohors erat qui vocatur Numerus*; but I rather take it to be an indefinite Number of Men, which might comprize several Companies, independent of any Legion. ³ *Vegetius*, speaking of the *Legati Imperatoris*, says, *in quorum locum nunc illustres viros constat Magistros Militum substitutos, à quibus non tantum binæ Legiones, sed plures Numeri gubernantur*; by which it is plain, the *Numeri* were no *Legionary Cohorts*. Neither was the Name so modern as from the *Notitia Imperii* and *Chrysostome* it might appear to be; for we meet with a ⁴ *Numerus Britonum* upon an Altar found in *Transylvania*, dedicated to the *Nymphs*, when the Emperor *Commodus* and *Glabrio* were Consuls, *A. D. 186*. And ⁵ another *Numerus* upon an Altar erected to *Hercules* for the Prosperity
of

¹ fol. 166. b ² fol. 161. b ³ Lib. II. c. 9. ⁴ Gruter. p. 94. 2. ⁵ id. 46. 9.

of *Septimius Severus*, when *Lateranus* and *Rufinus* were Consuls, *A. D.* 197: But after I had review'd the Letters at the end of the second Inscription, which are plainly transcribed *PR. CoH. I. L. GOR.* I could read them no otherwise than *Præfeto Cohortis primæ Legionis Gordianæ.* *Gordian III.* was so beloved of the Soldiery, that several Legions complimented him by honouring themselves with his Name, as the ¹ *Legio tertia Italica*, which took the Addition of *Gordiana*; and the ² *Legio decima gemina*, and ³ *Decima tertia gemina* did both give themselves the same Appellation. But which of the Legions quartered in this Island so stiled itself is not determin'd by this Inscription or any other that I know of. However, as the *Legio sexta Victrix* was all along quarter'd in the Northern parts of this Kingdom (as I observed before) where these Inscriptions were erected, I make no doubt but it was that which call'd it self *Gordiana*, tho' the numeral Distinction of VI is omitted, only perhaps for want of Room on the Stone. We find by several Inscriptions in *Camden*, that there was an *Ala* in those Parts which prided it self upon its Valour, and was therefore call'd the *Ala Augusta*; of the many Memorials it has left us of its Title, I shall only mention ⁴ one found at *Old Carlisle*, and which is the ancientest of them all, by any certainty of Date.

I. O. M.
AL. AVG. OB
... RTVT. APPEL. CVI
PRAEEST. TIB. CL. TIB. F. P.
LING · · N IVSTINVS.
PRAEF. FVSCIANO.
II. SILANO. II. COS.

that

¹ *Velf. Monum. Augusta Vindel.* p. 431.
p. 433. 1.

⁴ *Camd.* p. 827.

² *Grut.* p. 80.

³ *Gruter.*

that is,

Jovi Optimo Maximo, Ala Augusta ob Virtutem appellata, cui præest Tiberius Claudius Tiberii filius, provinciâ Lingonensi, Justinus præfectus, Fusciano secundò, Silano secundò Consulibus.

This Altar was dedicated when *Fuscianus* and *Silanus* were the second time *Consuls*, that is, in the Year 188. under the Reign of *Commodus*, and Fifty Years before our *Gordian* came to the Empire. At the same place was also discover'd the Fourth Inscription by me quoted, where we find this same *Ala Augusta* styling itself also *Gordiana*; from whence I think it is not a little probable that the Legion to which this Wing appertain'd was the *Legio Gordiana* mention'd in the Inscriptions found at *Langchester*; and that Legion to have been the *Legio sexta Victrix*, from the long Continuation of this *Ala Augusta* in these Northern parts of the Nation, the constant Quarters of that Legion.

July 10.
1788.