II. A Discourse occasion'd by an Inscription found, about Three Years 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, No. 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 laid nothing relating to the Explanation of the Inscription itself, tho' extremely curious; it will not, I hope, be taken amis, 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 Langheffer or Lancaster, in the Bishoprick of Durham, which I am, ¹ with him, fully perswaded 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 Bincheffer, and 7 from Ebhester, the one the Vinovia, and the other the Vindomora of Antoninus, as the Correspondence of the Numbers may evince; Bincheffer being 19 Roman Miles from Ebhester, 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 Town

Town of Longovicius 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 Longovicius was founded, as Dr. Hunter supposes, 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 passed 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 further 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 this Journey which carries us from Vindomora to Vinovia been composed 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 the "Journey towards the Recovery of the Roman Highways thro' Britain", printed in the 6th Volume of Mr. Hearne's Itinerary of Leland, which having brought the Ermin Street (not the Watling Street, as Dr. Hunter and the Country call it) a little beyond Cattarick in Yorkshire, divides it there into two Branches,
Branches, tracing one of them to Tinmouth, and the other to artif: but omits the main stem of it, that runs almost directly Northward to Piercebridge, so to Denton, Houghton, Binchester, Langbrough, Eakthorpe, Corbridge, and through the Heart of Northumberland into Scotland, about a Mile and a half to the West of Berwick. 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 less 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 viewed 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 Longoviius, 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 posse’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 Hand 6, 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.

NNNNNN

IMP

6 Phil. Trans. No. 266.
I.

IMP·CAÆSM·NT·GORDIANVS·PF·AVGV·BALNEVM·CM·BASILICA·A·LINSTRVXT
PRENECLANVM·LEG·AVG·PR·PR·CRNT·M·AVR·QVIRINO·PRECHILG

II.

IMP·CAES·M·ANTONIVS·GORDIANVS·PF·AVGV·PRINCIPIA·ET·ARMAMEN
TARIA·CONLAPSA·RESTITV·IT·PER·MECELVVM·FVSCVM·LEG·AVG·PR·PR·CRANTEM·AVR·QVIRINO·PR·CHILGOR.
(827)

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 Inscripti

I. Imperator Caesar Marcus Antonius Gordianus Pius Felix Augustus Balneum cum Basilia a solo instruxit Per Cneatium Lucilianum Legatum Augustalem Propretorem Curante Marco Aurelio Quirino Prefecto cohortis prima Longovicariorum; or rather, Legionis Gordiana.

The second can be read only after the following manner.


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 fame 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 hewn Stone, within which, and without, especially towards the East, are nothing but ruinous Heaps of Stone, and thinks the Lodging of the Garrison only to have been included within those Walls. His Conjecture is very much confirmed by the 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 flativa, 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 Armamentaria. 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 Proprætor, 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

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1 Phil. Trans. No. 266. p. 658. 2 Phil. Trans. No. 354.
this Inscription was found, of its Largeness and Extent.

The second equally puts the being of the Castra Slatium out of dispute, when it acquaints us with the Rebuilding of the Armamentaria and Principia there, that is the Arsenal and Quarters either of the Legionary Soldier, that were call'd the Principia, 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; tho the Legio sexta ViciSx seems to have the best Title to them, as being constantly quarter'd in the North; whereas, the 2 Legio Secunda, and 3 Vicigmna were generally garrison'd, the first at Caerleon in Wales and Richmow 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 across the Island, call'd them thither; which being finish'd, they returned home to their more Southern Quarters, and continued 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, Lollus 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 useless, the Roman Forces being drawn nearer to, and quarter'd upon the Frontiers; and to this Fortres abandoned and suffer'd to fall into decay, as the Word conlapia implies: and not that it was

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

Tho' the Word *conlapse* is wrote here with an *N*, there can be no doubt but the Pronunciation of it was as we usually find it spelt, *collapse*; 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*, *Reinæsus*, &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 *FABRIGEISIS* 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.

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<th>III.</th>
<th>Nymphis.</th>
<th>Numerus Brittonum</th>
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<td>NYMPHIS</td>
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<td><em>Numerus Brittonum</em></td>
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<td>BRITTON</td>
<td><em>Tripus</em></td>
<td><em>Tripus</em></td>
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<td>TRIPVTIEN</td>
<td><em>Sub cura</em></td>
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<td>SVB CVRA</td>
<td><em>Marci Ulpi</em></td>
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<td>MVLPI</td>
<td><em>Malchii</em></td>
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<td><em>Centurionis Leg. 22.</em></td>
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<td>&gt; LEG XXII</td>
<td><em>Trimigeniæ, Piae, Feliciæ.</em></td>
<td><em>Trimigeniæ, Piae, Feliciæ.</em></td>
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There

¹ *Quintil. Instit. Lib. I. c. 7:*
² *Gruter. p. xcii.*
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.* Tripontiens 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. Batty 2, in his Antiquitates Rutupiae, would read it RIPVTIEN, and fix'd the Place whence this Numerus took its Appellation at Richborough 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 Reason that under the Emperor gave Direction for these Repairs, was Mecilius Fuscus: as Mecilius is a Diminutive of Mecius, it is not unlikely that he was the Son of Mecius Fuscus, who was Consul with Turpilius Dexter, A. D. 225. in the Reign of Alexander Severus: By this Inscription it appears that this Mecilius was the Emperor Gordian's Lieutenant here and Proprator; For tho' in Phil. Transatt. N° 354, by the Inadvertency of the Engraver, we read only PR. instead of PR. PR; it is right in the Original, and in the Transcript

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1 Antonin. Ill. 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 Fus-
us stands in the same Place in the second as that of Lucilianus does in the first, and with the same Ad-
juncts 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 re-
mark, we never meet with a Legatus Augustalis in any
Inscription in this Island, without the joint Title of
Propretor; and 'Tacitus himself either makes them the
same Office, or at least unites them in the same Person,
when he tells us, In Britannia P. Ostorum Propretori
rerum turbida res excepta; and having presently after
related the manner of the Fight with the Iceni, files
him Legatus, Qua pugnâ filius Legati, M. Ostorum, ser-
vati civis decus meruit; 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 Propretors of Britain, that would otherwise have
been buried in Oblivion, viz. Cneius Lucilianus and Ma-
cilius Fuscus: For from Virius Lupus (who was Propre-
tor and Legate here about the Year 268, under Seve-
rus, and just before that Emperor's coming into this
Island repaired a Bath burnt down at Lavatra, or
Bowers; in Yorkshire) we have no where extant the
Name of one of those Officers, till we come to Non-
nius Philippus, whom I take to have succeeded the laft
of these; the Stone which was found at Old Carlisle
in

(833)

in Cumberland, and has preserv'd his Memory, setting forth that he was Legate and Propritor when Attions and Prætextatus 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 Propritor of his appointing, and consequently, that Macilius Fusus was his Predecessor, and the Repairs begun at Longovicus before the Year 243. 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. SALVTF. 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 VIRTUVTEM
APPELLAT. POSVIT. CVI. PRAEEST
AIMILIVS. CRISPINVVS. PREF
EQQ. NATVS. IN. PRO. AFRICA DE
TVSDRO. SVB. CVR. NONNI. PHI
LIPPI. LEG. AVG. PROPRETO.
ATTICO. ET. PRETEXTATQ COSS.

The

The Person who had the Care of these Repairs both in Town and Camp, was Marcus Aurelius Quirinus, Prefect or Commander of a Company of Foot; another Argument for the Propsectors Lucilianus and Fusens 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. I.C. R, which, before I had seen the Latter, I was induced to read Prefecto Cohortis prima Longovica-rorum, the 'Notitia Imperii' placing the Prefectus numero 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 conflat Magistros Militum Substitutos, à quibus non tantum bine 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 Nymps, 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

\(^2\) fol.166, b \(^3\) fol.161, b \(^4\) Lib. II. c.9. \(^5\) Gruter. p.94. 2. \(^6\) id.46.9.
of Septimius Severus, when Lateranus and Rufinus were
Consuls, A. D. 197. But after I had review'd the Let-
ters at the end of the second Inscription, which are plain-
ly transcribed PR. CoH. I. L. GOR. I could read them
no otherwize than Prefecto Cohortis prime Legionis Gordia-
nae. Gordian III. was so beloved of the Soldiery, that seve-
ral Legions complimented him by honouring themselves
with his Name, as the 1 Legio tertia Italia, which took
the Addition of Gordiana; and the 2 Legio decima ge-
mina, and 3 Decima tertia gemina did both give themselves
the same Appellation. But which of the Legions quar-
tered in this Island so stiled itself is not determin'd by
this Inscription or any other that I know of. Howev-
er, as the Legio sexta Vicirix was all along quarter'd
in the Northern parts of this Kingdom (as I obser-
ved before) where these Inscriptions were erected, I
make no doubt but it was that which call'd it self Gor-
diana, 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 Me-
morials 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 IVSTIVS.
PRAEF. FVSCIANO.
II. SILANO. II. COS.

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{1} Vell. Monum. Augusta Vindel. p. 431. \textsuperscript{2} Grut, p. 80. \textsuperscript{3} Grut. p. 433. \textsuperscript{4} Camden. p. 827.}
that is,

Jovi Optimo Maximo, Ala Augusta ob Virtute
tem appelleta, cui praefit Tiberius Claudius Tiberii
silius, provinciá Lingonensi, Justinus praefectus,
Fusciano secundo, Silano secundo Consulibus.

This Altar was dedicated when Fuscianus and Sila-
nus 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 stiling
itself also Gordiana; from whence I think it is not a
little probable that the Legion to which this Wing ap-
pertain'd was the Legio Gordiana mention'd in the Inscrip-
tions found at Langbechter; and that Legion to have
been the Legio sexta Victrix, from the long Continu-
ation of this Ala Augusta in these Northern parts of
the Nation, the constant Quarters of that Legion.

July 10.
1718.

III. A