

1. *An Account of a Roman Monument found in the Bishoprick of Durham, and of some Roman Antiquities at York, sent in a Letter from Martin Lister Esq;*

I have with much trouble got into my hands a Piece of *Roman Antiquity*, which was but a very few years ago discovered upon the South Bank of the River *Tine*, near the *Sheilds* in *Bishoprick*. It is a very large and fair *Roman Altar* of one entire Stone. But after all my cost and pains, I am very sorry to find the Inscription very ill defaced, that much of it is not legible. And I believe it hath been also mis-handled by those who have endeavoured to read it; whereas if the remainder of the Letters had been exactly measured, and the face blackt and lightly washt off again, as in Prints, some things more might have been spelled.

As to the nature of the Stone it self, it is of a course *Rag*, the same with that of the *Pyramids* at *Burrow-Briggs*. It is 4 foot high, and was ascended to by steps, which appeareth in that all the sides, but the Front, have two square holes near the bottome, which let in the Irons that joynd it to the Steps.

I have carefully designed it in all it's sides, and have given the Plane of the Top also; which if you please we will survey in order.

1. The Back-side, opposite to the Inscriptions on which is ingraven in Basse-reliefe, a *Flower-pot* furnished, I suppose with what pleased the Stone-cutter, for these men needed not to be more curious than the Priests themselves, who were wont to make use of Herbs next hand to adorn the Altars, and therefore *Verbena* is put for any kind of Herb. Yet if we will have it resemble any thing with us, I think it most like, if not truly *Nymphaea*, a known and common River Plant.

2. One

2. One of the sides, which is somewhat narrower than the Front or Back: on this are engraved in Bass-relieve, the *Cutting-knife* (*cesespita*) and the *Ax* (*securis*). The Knife is exactly the same with that on the other Altar formerly by me mentioned in the Philosophical Collections of Mr. Hooke; but the Ax is different; for here it is headed with a long and crooked point, and there the head of the Ax is divided into 3 points.

3. The other side; on which are engraved after the same manner an *Eure* (*Urceolus*) and a *Ladle*, which serve for a *Sympullum*. This I call rather a *Ladle*, than a *Mallet*, it being perfectly Dish-wise and hollow in the middle, altho *Camden* is of an other opinion in that elegant *Sculpt* of the *Cumberland* Altar. And the very same Utensil I have seen and noted on the *Ickley* Altar, which is yet extant at *Middleton Grange* near that Town; but the Stone which *Camden* saies supports a pair of Stairs there (as at this day it does in the very Road) is but an ill Copy of it, and not the Original.

4. The Plane of the Top; which is cut in the Figure of a *Bason* (*discus* or *lanx*.) with *ansæ* on each side, consisting of a pair of links of a chain, which rest upon, and fall over two Rowles; And this was the *Harth*.

5. The Front; which hath an Inscription of nine lines in Roman Letters, each Letter a very little more than two inches deep of our measure; now remaining as in the prefixt Sculpture, *Fig. 5.* which I would read thus, *Dis deabusq; Matribus pro Salute M. Aurelii Antonini Augusti Imperatoris — votum solvit lubens lubens merito ob reditum.*

The *Deæ Matres* are well interpreted by *Selden*. It is much his Safety and Return both vowed, should be so seperated in the Inscription; but I have not *Gruter* by me to compare this with the like. *Caracalla* say the Historians\* after his Fathers death at *York*, took upon him the Command of the Army alone, and the whole Empire; he went alone against the Enemy, who were the *Caledonij*

\* *Xiphilinus*  
*Herodianus*  
&c.

inhabiting beyond the Wall which his Father had built, he made Peace with them, recieved their Hostages, slighted their fortified places, and returned. And this seems to be confirmed by the Inscription; for undoubtedly upon this his last Expedition of him alone, without his Brother *Geta* and *Mother*, was this Altar erected to him alone, at a place about Two Stations on this side the Wall. So that the Vow might be as well understood of his Return from this expedition, as for his Safetie and return to *Rome*; which mi-thinks should be true, or his Mother and Brother *Geta* would scarce have been left out, at least so early. For yet the Army declared for them both, according to their Fathers Will.

Further, it seems also to have been erected by those who flatter'd him, and who were afterwards killed by him; and for this reason the persons Names, who dedicated it, seem to me to be purposely defaced, the 6 and 7th Lines of the Inscription being designedly cut away by the hollowness of them, and there not being the least sign of any Letter remaining, and this I suppose might be part of their disgrace, as it was usual to deface and break the Statutes and Monuments of persons executed, of which this Monster made strange havoc.

But since worn Inscriptions admit of various readings, because some Letters are worn out, and some more legible, whereby not prejudiced people may conceive them diversly, I will therefore tell you an other reading of part of the two first lines, which I do not disallow, but that it will agree well enough with the History of *Severus*, tho his *Apotheosis*, or solemn deification, was not performed till he came to *Rome*, in the manner of which Funeral Pomp *Harodrian* is very large; it was of that excellent Antiquarie Dr. *Johnson* of *Pomfret*

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RI. B. PROS &c.  
The rest as follows in mine,

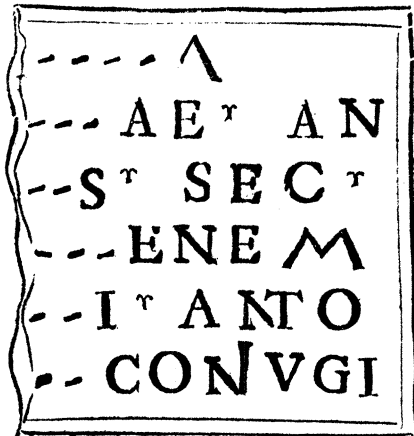
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Which shews the hight of Flattery of those times. So that they paid their Vowes to the lately dead Father the Conservator of *Britain*, for the safety of the Son; and the Story tells us how gladly he would have had him made a God long before, even with his own hand.

I think it not amiss, if I give you the rest of my Observations concerning these matters, which I have met with in this City.

1. A large *Pedestal* of the same sort of Stone, found deep in the ground, on the West side of the River, which by the Stone, and its mouldings, was undoubtedly *Roman*, and must have been for a Pillar in some large building.

2. A Broken Inscription in the Church-wall in *All-Saints North-street*, with the Figure of a Naked Woman in Bas-relieve on the left side of it. The Letters (as many of them as remain) are exceeding fairly cut, beyond any thing I have yet seen of *Roman Antiquities* in *England*, and the Stone of a finer grain than ordinary. It is a Monument of *Conjugal Affection*.



The first stroak is the out-side of a great M, and is part of the *Dis Manibus*. The three last lines may be read thus, *Benè merenti Antonio Conjugi*: Yet it is hard to say, whether

ther it was for the Husband or Wife, for it may be read *Antonia*. The Points also betwixt the words are here very singular, but this was the caprice of the *Stone-cutter*, who sometimes also use a Leaf, hanging or erect, a Hand, a Feather, or such odd fancy for Points.

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*An Abstract of a Letter from Mr. Anthony  
Leewen hoeck writ to Sir C. W.*

*Jan. 22. 1683. from Delft.*

**H**AVING lately met with a Book published by a Physician of our *Country*, which treats of *Humane Generation*, and the *Egg-branch* as it is found in Women-kinds and not doubting but what is there said, is also applicable to *Four-footed Beasts*, I examin'd (in the presence of a *Physitian* and other learned Persons as well as alone) the *Egg-branches* of several *Lambs* of a year old, that had been several Months in the Winter kept in a Stall for fattening, seperated from the *Ramms*. From what I have hitherto found I cannot but wonder why it should be generally believed, That the *Tuba Fallopiana* does draw, or suck down an *Egg* from the *Egg-branch*, thro so narrow a passage, as I shew'd the *Tuba Fallopiana* to have. Considering therewithal that some of the *Eggs* were as big as Pease, and others as large as the whole *Egg-branch*: That they were made up of Glandulous parts interwoven with Blood-Vessels, and were shut up so fast in their Skins or Membranes that I could not with my Nails tear one of them from the *Egg-branch*: That some of them consisted of very irregular and unlike parts, which were in some places inclosed in particular Skins, and had not at all the shape of an *Egg*: That some of them which stood out beyond the rest were burst open; and yet when I went to pull them  
off

Fig. 2.

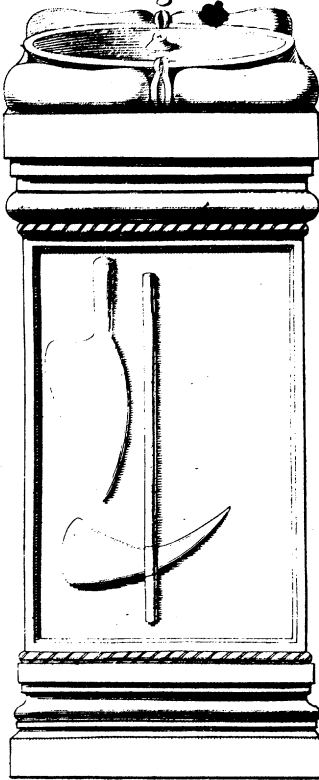


Fig. 5.

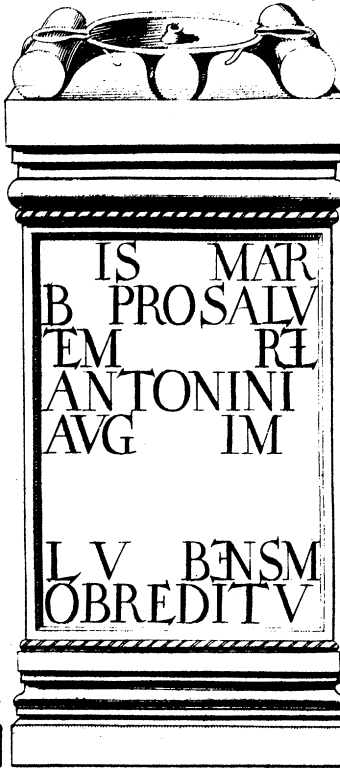


Fig. 1.

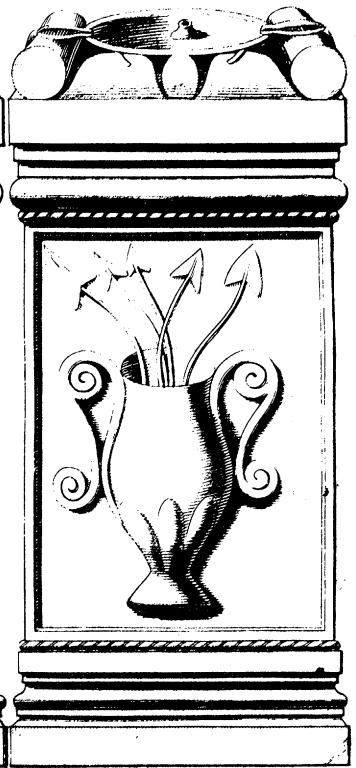


Fig. 3.

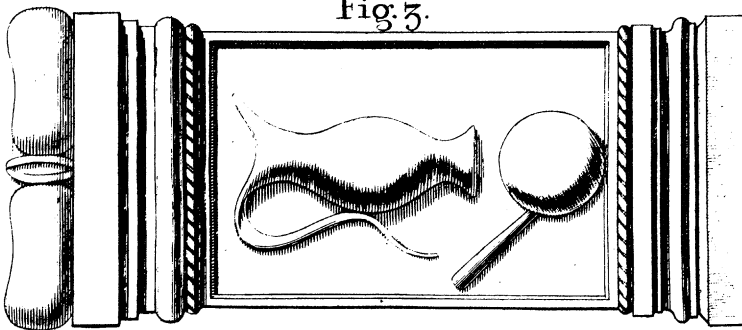


Fig. 4.

