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I. *A Letter from Mr Christopher Hunter, to Dr Martin Lister, Fellow of the Coll. of Physf. and R. S. concerning some Roman Inscriptions found near Durham.*

S I R,

THE kind acceptance, Matters relating to our Nation's Antiquity, meet with among the Members of your Learned Society, encourages me to present these following Inscriptions, which I copy'd from the Stones, without any manner of addition; and I am the more willing to present them to you, who have been a particular Ornament to that College I was lately a Student in, I mean *St Johns*, and are still, the greatest to our Profession. These Inscriptions were found near a Village called *Lancaster*, about 5 miles North West from *Durham*, which I am fully perswaded has been the *Longovicum* of the *Romans*. It has been a very considerable Place in these parts, and their wailing Street lies through it. 'Tis on the top of a Hill, which has a descent on three sides; towards the West its overlookt by a high Hill, and almost Eastward from it about a quarter of a mile, stands the present *Lanchester*, a tolerable Country Village, with a pretty Church, which before the Reformation was endowed with a Deanery and six Prebends. The form of this place has been square, and fortify'd with a thick, strong Stone Wall faced with hewn Stone. Within the Wall are (and have been formerly) nothing but ruinous heaps of Stones; as also without the Wall too, especially towards the East. 'Tis probable the Building within the
Wall.

Wall have been all publick, such as the Station for the Soldiers, Temples, Palaces, &c, or (which I am more inclin'd to think) there has been nothing but the Lodging of the Garrison within the Wall. This I rather suppose, because the Inscription of *Gordianus* was not found here, but about a hundred yards from the Wall towards the East, near which place the largest Stones are found : and I my self above a year ago found part of a large Earthen Urn, near this place, within which I suppose there has been a lesser, such I remember was found at another Village not far from this, which I'm perswaded has been another Colony. An account whereof I intend to present you in a small time, if this find acceptance. There is no doubt but this Colony has been adorn'd with many beautiful Palaces, and other sumptuous Buildings ; I desire to know your Opinion if the *Balneum cum Basilica*, mention'd in one of these Inscriptions, have not been that so long in vain sought for at *Rome*.

This, Sir, is all I can meet with concerning this place at present, but if I meet with any thing more worth the knowing, I shall take care to send it you. I am,

S I R,

Newcastle sup. Tine,
Nov. 6. 1700

Your most humble Servant,

Christ. Hunter.