

VI. *A Letter from Mr. Ralph Thoresby, F. R. S. to Dr. Hans Sloane, R. S. Secr. concerning some Roman Antiquities observed in Yorkshire.*

*Leeds, April 23, 1709.*

*Honoured SIR,*

THERE have some *Roman Monuments* been lately found amongst the Ruins upon *Adel* or *Echop-Moor*, but having no legible Inscriptions, they are not worth troubling you with the Draughts of them, only their Size seem'd strange to me at first; that there should be Altars so small, was indeed no surprize, I having one (inserted in the *New Britannia*, p. 782.) little different; but that any other sort of Commemorative Monuments should be so little as eighteen Inches high, and only six broad, was new to me, till I found others as small, tho of richer Materials, being Marble, in the Noble Collections of *Christopher Wren* Esq; and *Mr. Kempe*; whereas these are of a very coarse Stone, as *Dr. Lister* has truly observed, most of those found in the North are. One of these, as appears by the *Discus*, has been evidently one of their portable Altars; but another instead of the Hearth, having three intire Rolls or Wreaths, 'tis certain was never design'd for that purpose.

When the *Vestigia* of this *Roman Station* were first discovered, (of which see *Numb. 282* of the *Philosoph. Transactions*) I was ready to fancy it to have been the *Adellocum* of the Ancients, from some remains of the Name in the present *Adle* or *Adel*, as it is writ both in the *Monastic. Anglic.* and some ancient Charts in my possession; but when I was last at *London*, having by the fa-

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vour of *Peter Le Neve* Esq; *Norroy* King at Arms, an opportunity of perusing that Venerable Record *Domesday-Book* in the Exchequer, I found besides *Adele* and *Echope* beforementioned, another Place in the Neighbourhood, call'd *Burghedurum* or *Burgdunum*, which I am now ready to conclude, was the Ancient *Roman* Name of this Station: That the Itinerary is silent herein, is no Argument against it; for none, I presume, do imagine that the Names of all the Towns in the Province are there recited, but only such as lie upon those Roads that are particularly mention'd; but that it has, at least, the Appearance of a *Roman* Name may be argued, because *Burgi* was the common Name whereby they called such Castles or Forts as were convenient for War, and well stored with Provisions of Corn, as appears by the Authorities quoted by *Camden* and *Burton* in their Notes upon the *Roman Vertera*, or *Burgh* under *Stanemoor*; and the *Burgundians* rec'd their Name from their inhabiting such Castles: and to me it seems probable, that the small squared Stones, wherewith the very Antique Church at *Adel* is built, were brought from the Ruins of such a Castle, and gave rise thereby to an old Tradition, which continues to this day, that *Adel-Church* once stood upon *Black-hill*, the place where these *Roman* Monuments were found; the elevated situation of which place sufficiently accounts for the termination of the Name, the *Gaulish* or *British Dunum*, which signifies a Hilly or Mountainous Place, being naturalized in the *Roman* Provincial Language. I shall only add, that within a Mile of it, there are two scattering Houses, that do to this Day retain the Name of *Burden-* (for *Burgdun-*) *Head*.