

XXXIX. *An Account of a Book, entitled, [Julij Vitalis Epitaphium; cum Notis Criticis Explicationeque; V. C. Hen. Dodwelli, et Commentario Guil. Musgrave.] Iscæ Dunmoniorum. Sumtibus Philippi Yeo. MDCCXI.*

IT is said of *Zeno*, that when He consulted the Oracle, as to what course of Life He were best to pursue, He received for Answer, *Εἰ συ γράψῃς τοῖς νεκροῖς*, *si ad mortuos se adplicaret*; it being from Them, their Writings and other Remains, that the greatest part of Knowledge is derived to us; and what the Living furnish us with, is chiefly taken from the Monuments of the Dead.

Inscriptions are in this kind most valuable, as being for the generality *Originals of undoubted Veracity*; not subject to the Errors of Copying. The *Inscription* here publish'd, is of the greater value, for that it is the only one, as yet discover'd, any way relating to the *British Belge*.

You have, *Tab. VII.* the *Inscription*, with the Figure of *Tab. VII.* the Stone, as it was dug up near *Bath*, 1708. and is now to be seen, set up in a Wall at the East end of the Church, in the *Abby Green*.

I read it thus at length, according to our Modern way of writing Latin.

Julius Vitalis, *Fabricensis Legionis Vicefime Valeriane Vittricis, Stipendiorum novem, Annorum viginti novem, Natione Belga, ex Collegio Fabricensium elatus, hic situs est.*

The Learned Mr. *Dodwell*, after his *Critical Notes* on this Inscription, divides his *Explication* of it into Ten Sections, which have the following Titles.

SECT. I. *Legionum singularum Fabricenses sub primis duntaxat Imperatoribus.*

II. *Alij Fabricenses hi a Fabricensibus Notitiarum, et Codicis utriusq; tam Theodosiani quam Justiniani.*

III. *Leges de Fabricensibus (etiam post Constantinum M.) non solum Officiorum Magistro, sed Comiti etiam Sacrarum Largitionum, et Præfecto Prætorij inscribi solitæ, usq; ad A. D. 474.*

IV. *A Temporibus Constantini, et initio Diocletiani, Britannia sub Præfecto Gallicani Prætorij, qui proinde Fabricæ militaris Britannicæ Potestatem habebat.*

V. *Carausius et Allectus in Britannia Augusti Fabricæ Britannicæ prospiciebant per suorum Prætoriorum Præfectos, non Gallicanum. Inscriptio hæc senior Ptolemæo, antiquior tamen Dionis Consulatu, A. D. 229.*

VI. *In ipsa Urbe Bathoniensi erat Fabricensium Legionis XX^æ. Collegium.*

VII. *Legio II^a. Aug. nondum in agro Monumethensi, A. D. 211. cum excederet Sept. Severus. Eoq; proinde anno antiquior erat hæc, fortassis, Inscriptio.*

VIII. *Fieri potest, ut Fabricas duplices, tam Armorum quam Machinarum Bellicarum, complexum fuerit unicum hujus Inscriptiois Fabricæ Collegium.*

IX. Na-

IX. Nationis nomine Patria designatur Julij Vitalis, quæ in Belgarum territorio fuerit, non Gallicorum, sed Britannicorum.

X. Ad honorem Julij Vitalis faciunt, quæ de eo in hoc monumento dicuntur.

To this *Explication* of *Julius Vitalis* his *Epitaph*, the same learned Gentleman adds two other *Inscriptions*, one found not long since at *Pozzuoli*, the other at *Baia*, with *Explications* of them.

After a Letter of Compliment, to Dr. *Nicholes*, late Warden of *Winchester College*, the Editor produces his *Commentary* on *Julius Vitalis* his *Epitaph*. They are both divided into Sections, in the following Order.

SECT. I. I V L I V S. V I T A L I S.

These Names are enquired into, and Instances given of many Persons having this Surname; and of those some of Quality, now living in *Italy*.

SECT. II. F A B R I C I E S I S.

It is here observed, that the *Romans*, for the sake of easy Pronunciation, used sometimes to interpose an I, and omit N. That they, being great Masters of the Art Military, had *duum generum Officinas Armorum, quarum hæ Legionariæ, illæ Opidanæ erant*. The former came at last to be call'd *Fabricæ*, as appears from *Hyginus*, allowing, in every Camp for three Regions, room for a *Fabrica*. (Vide *Antiq. Rom. a Cl. Grævio edit. Vol. X.*) From *Fabrica* comes *Fabricenses*, which is read in the *Theodosian Code*, in a Law made *Leontio & Sallustio Coss.* (A. D. 344.) And because the Author has not met with this Word earlier than this Year, He does not place *J. Vitalis* much above this time.

SECT. III:

Sect. III. L E G. XX.

The Author here delivers it as probable, That this was one of *Antony's* Legions, which amounted, without Interruption, to the Number XXV. inclusive. The *Insignia* for the first Cohort of this Legion, and two such as belong to the other Cohorts, are, from a Coyn of *Ursinus*, here represented in a Cut.

Under this head it is affirmed, That there were several *Vicesima Legionēs*, but how many is uncertain. The several Names of this Legion, as they lye scatter'd up and down in Authors, are recited. A short History of it produc'd, particularly of its coming into *Britain* under *Plautius*, about the Year 43. That Invasion one of the most remarkable *Epochs*, that ever concern'd this Island. *Gracina*, Wife to *Plautius*, probably the first *Christian* in *Britain*. This Legion was in the last Battel with, and overthrow of *Boadicia*: Was under the Command of *Roscius Calius*, and after that of *Agricola*: Had its chief Station at *Deva* (*Chester*,) which had its Increase, if not its Rise, from this Legion, about the Year 80. Near the River *Deva*, He thinks the *Cangi* were seated; and proves, That they were overcome by *Agricola* in the first Year of *Domitian's* Reign. This Legion in *Britain* in the Reign of *Adrian*. The *Vexillarii* of this Legion built part of that Wall, between *Dunbritton* and *Edenborough Friths*. *Ptolemy* and the *Itinerary* of *Antoninus* mention this Legion, as settled at *Deva*: (*Chester*.) It was there in the time of *Commodus*, and at *Crowdun-dale-waith*. It sided with *Carausius*, against *Maximinian* and *Diocletian*. The Romans did often place Coyns, under their Altars, and other Buildings. Of the XXth Legion, part had their Station at *Bath*; and was there about the middle of the 4th Century. This Legion continued in *Britain* about three hundred Years; consequently,

sequently, must be of great use in communicating to the *Britains*, the many Arts and Sciences, they learnt of the *Romans*.

Sect. IV. V. V.

Tho' Learned Men agree, That the latter V signifies *Victrix*, an Epithet common to this with several other Legions; there is among them much controversy, what it meant by the former V. some reading it *Valens*, others *Valeria*, others *Valeriana*. The Author is of the latter Opinion, urging, That as the Legion, called by *Dio Κλαυδίου*, is by *Tacitus*, more than once, term'd *Claudiana Legio*; so this Legion, term'd by *Dio Ουαλερίου*, ought, in his Opinion, to be in *Latin* rendred *Legio Valeriana*: Especially, if we consider, That the word *Legio* affects to be joined with an Adjective ending in *ana*; of which He produces almost twenty Examples, and can produce many more: On the other hand, it does not appear to him, That *Legio* is in any good Author joyned with the word *Valeria*. He farther adds, That tho it be undoubtedly true, there was a Legion call'd *Valens Victorix*, (for this is evident from an Inscription, reported by *Lipsius*, and others) yet there is no proof, That any Legion, having that Name, was ever in *Britain*. He enquires, how this Legion came to be call'd *Valeriana*, and how *Victrix*: And says, there is a longer Account of this Legion, than perhaps of any other, *viz.* up to 374 Years.

Sect. V. STIPENDIORUM. IX.

The yearly *Stipends* are here placed to express the Years of Service, and shew, That *J. V.* served nine Years in the Army.

Sect. VI. A N N O R. XXXIX.

This double N is very remarkable; rarely, if at all, to be met with in any other *Inscription*. The last Line, in the Ligature, is raised higher than ordinary, perhaps to include, for softness of Pronunciation, an I; and then the Word is to be read *Anniorum*. There are many Instances of this kind to be met with, in ancient MSS and *Inscriptions*. *Julius Vitalis* enter'd into the Service in the Twentieth Year of his Age; though the *Romans* generally list'd at Seventeen, and sometimes earlier. Coyns are mentioned, as proving Cifres to be of use among the *Romans*.

Sect. VII. N A T I O N E.

The first Vowel here, without a Line transverse, is according to Mr. *Cambden's* Rule, a good Argument to prove, this *Inscription* not to be more ancient than *Severus's* Age: There being, as that Learned Antiquary affirms, no such Form of this Letter, in this Island, before that time.

Sect. VIII. B E L G A.

The *Belgæ* came out of *Germany*, and settled in *Gaul*; from whence a part of them invaded *Britain*, about the Time of *Diviaticus*. They landed in, or near the Bay of *Clausentum* (old *South-hampton*) and possess'd the Sea-Coast of *Hampshire*, as it is now call'd. Thence they march'd to *Venta* (*Winchester*) and gave it the Name of *Venta Belgarum*, and extended their Conquests farther, into the Countreys now known by the Names of *Wiltshire* and *Somerset*.

The *Cangi* could not inhabit any part of this *Belgium*, (as some learned Men have formerly affirmed, and others of late undertaken to prove,) for the Leadn Pigs, in number twenty, found some time since in *Cheeshire*, each having the following Inscription,

IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GER. DE. CEANG.

That is,

Imperator Domitianus Augustus Germanicus de Ceangis,
five *Cangi**,

These *Lamina Plumbea* do (I say) evidently prove the Victory of the *Cangi* to have been near the River *Deva*, where in all likelihood they were seated.

'Tis farther manifest from *Ptolemy*, they could not, at least in his time, and according to his Geography, inhabit any part of *Belgium*, and this by an undeniable Argument. The Maritime *Belgians* near the *Isle of Wight*, were overcome by *Vespasian*; whose Camp, now to be seen near *Chichester*, was capable of three Legions, that is, Thirty six thousand Men.

Vitalis a Citizen of *Rome*, by virtue of *Caracalla's* Constitution, if no other way. The *Britains* were sometimes call'd *Romans*. *Vespasian* never overcame the *Dunmonij*.

Sect. VIII. EX. COLECIO. FABRICE.

The single L is according to the Custom of the *Romans*, which held as long as their Language.

C for G was also usual with Them.

The *Fabrica Sacra*, or Office for making Arms of the greater sort, for the Souldiery, is mention'd by *Paternus* ; who lived under the *Antonines*. *Trajan* seems, first, to have built this sort of Office ; whose Oeconomy is here set forth ; but, in *Britain*, *Adrian*, A. D. CXXI. Why we ought to read *Fabricensum*. The *Bath-Fabric* had Ore and Fuel from the *Silures*, (*Glocestershire* and *Monmouthshire*) where *Adrian* sunk an Iron-work. Of the Officer in the Army called *Armorum Custos*. The *Armamentarium* at the Mouth of the old *Rhine*, very ancient : Its Communication, in latter Times, with our *Fabrica*. Not unlikely, but that the Legionary *Fabricenses* were incorporated into the *Bath-College*. *Julius Vitalis* recommended Himself to the College, perhaps by his Humanity, Probity, and Urbanity. The Luxury of this XXth Legion, and of the *Fabricenses* near *Bath*, manifest from their many Mosaic Pavements : Of which one is here described. *Vitalis* seems to have been *Præfectus Fabricensum*, from the Honour done Him, by the whole College, in his Funeral and Monument.

SECT. X. E L A T U S.

The true Signification of this Word, in opposition to *Sipontinus*. *Collegium*, in the purest *Latin* Authors, never signifies a *Place*.

SECT. XI. H S E.

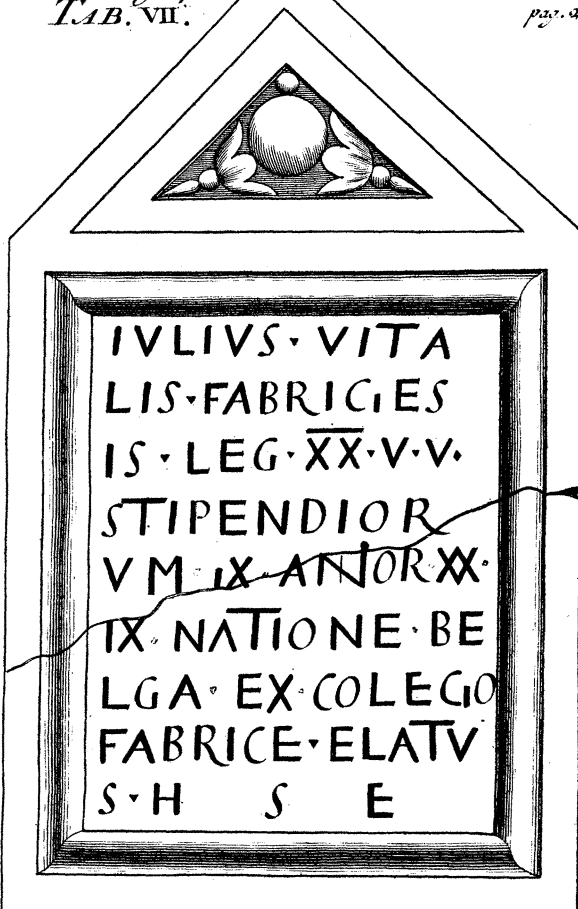
The Rise of *Notes*, *Singule*, or *Sigle*. No Points in this Note, being of itself easily understood. The common way of Deciphering not difficult ; and may be perform'd by one, who understands not the Language of the Writing. A way of writing proposed, so occult, as not to be discovered. No *Digamma Æolicum* in any of the *British Inscriptions*. Phrases, as well as Words,
have

have their Rise and Fall. This of [*Hic situs est*] one of the most ancient.

The *Military Ways*, as now seen, are some of the most Magnificent Remains of the *Roman Greatness*; begun near *Bath*, under *Claudius*. The *Roman Army* in *Britain* under *Nero* 70000: which, after the Defeat of *Boadicia*, was in all likelihood employ'd in public Works, as *Ways*, &c. At *Bath* four *Military Ways* meet; in this *Quadrivium*, about a Mile out of the *Town*, near the *London-Road*, was a famous *Burying-Place*; in which *Julius Vitalis*, and several others, were buried. *Burying-Places* most proper remote from *Cities*, and therefore recommended to more frequent use, after the Example of most wise Nations.

In the last Chapter the Author treats of the Orthography, Ornaments, and other Accidents of this *Inscription*, setting forth, in particular, That as *Inscriptions* best of all teach Orthography, so they are often most faulty in this respect. Points at first were used to distinguish Words. In this *Inscription*, they are, where most perfect, Triangular, and placed near the middle of the preceding Letter. The *Roman V* was pronounc'd like our *W*; consequently *Julius Vitalis*. This Vowel was sometimes pointed beneath, sometimes Arch'd, as appears from MSS of a thousand Years age, now to be seen in the *Bodleian Library*: contrary to the Opinion of *Cellarius*; who affirms, That the round bottom'd *U, U*, is not above a hundred Years standing. This last Figure of this Letter taken from the *Runer*, as the other, *V*, was from the Greek ν . Of the mixing small with great Letters; and mixing, in the same Writing, Letters of divers Alphabets. Lithotomists careless in dividing Syllables. Knowledge of the Antients best preserved by *Inscriptions*; which yet labour under great defects. The Use of this *Inscription*.

The A. of this *Commentary* can't but take Notice, That it is not represented aright by the Editor of the *Bibliothèque choisie*, Tom. XXV. première partie. For pagg. 225 and 6, He says, [*Belges, qui des Provinces septentrionales du Continent des Gaules s'étoient transportez en Angleterre, autour de Bath & Wells*] Whereas the *Commentary* affirms no such thing, and in all likelihood *Wells*, and perhaps *Bath* too, is much later than the settling of the *Belgæ* in *Britain*. In the 2d place, He observes, That whereas the *Bibliothèque* affirms of the *Bath* Fabric [*ce que l'on avoit ignoré jusqu'à présent*] the *Commentary* quite otherwise says, [*Fabricam Aquis, quod orbi literato jam diu latuit, fuisse Calidis.*] pag. 189. Lastly, speaking of the round bottom'd U, invented (as *Cellarius* affirms) about a hundred Years ago, This, says the *Bibliothèque*, is true, as to *Inscriptions* [*Cela est vrai à l'égard des Inscriptions.*] On the other hand, I take leave to affirm, *quod hujus contrarium est verissimum*: There being now to be seen in *Cornwall* an old *Inscription* with a round U.



*Tabulam hanc, quæ representat
Julij Vitalis Epitaphium, ad
Bathoniam, A.D. MDCCIIIX
effossum, Antiquitatis studio
flagrantibus D. D. 2.*

Richardus Musgrave,
Hafilburienfis.