

III. *Extracts of Two Letters from Mr. Tho. Knowlton to Mr. Mark Catesby, F.R.S. concerning the Situation of the ancient Town Delgovicia; and of two Men of an extraordinary Bulk and Weight.*

## I.

Londisburgh, Sept. 1745.

S I R,

Read March 6.  
1745-6.

**L**ately we have discovered (within four Miles of this Place) many Foundations in a ploughed Field, which have lain buried for many hundred Years; and there are no Records or Tradition of it: It was discovered by one Mr. *Hudson*, a Farmer at *Millington*, as he formerly tended his Sheep on one Side of the Hill, and on the opposite Side had perceived in the Corn a Difference in Colour for some Years before; which led him this Summer to dig; and, happening on the Foundations, it encouraged him, Dr. *Burton*, and myself, to dig likewise in several Places; and in one Part was discovered a circular Foundation five Feet wide, and the Plan within 45 Feet Diameter; by which I imagine it was a Temple dedicated to *Diana*, said to have been at *Goodmanham*; but I could never, by many Trials, find the least Appearance of it there. The Distance from *Goodmanham* to *Millington* is about 5 Miles; and there were likewise many other Foundations which had great Quantities of *Roman Pavements* within them; by which I imagine, after the  
Dissolution

Dissolution of the Temple it became a *Roman* Station, then called *Delgovicia*; which has been found certainly fixed at *Goodmanham, Londesbrough, Hayton, &c.*: Yet not the least Remains ever appearing at any of those Places, so as to satisfy an indifferent Inquirer; but, in this just now'discovered, the Ruins and Foundations are a Demonstration of the once Grandeur of the Place; and no doubt it was the above-mentioned *Delgovicia*. The Foundations lay about 18 Inches below the Surface, and to the Depth of 4 or 5 Feet within the Ground.

*N. B.* It is on the *Wolds* Hills, within two Miles of *Pocklington*.

Within a Mile and half of *Kilham* is a Place called *Danes Graves*, near which, it is supposed, was fought a great Battle, in which infinite Numbers fell; and so were laid in Heaps, and covered with the chalky Soil in little *Tumuli*, of the Quantity of two or three square Yards; in which, if opened, one may find great Quantities of human Bones: Though, at this Distance of Time, I believe there is not less than an Acre of Ground covered over with them, joining close to each other; and it is one of the greatest Curiosities of Antiquity, in my Opinion, I have ever seen: I am determin'd one Day to go and number them, and to measure the Quantity of Land they cover.

About five Miles from thence, in *Rudstone* Church-yard, there stands up, on the N. E. End of the Church, a large Stone, 30 Feet above-ground, and what Depth within is not known (tho' I intend next Winter to dig and see the Depth): Neither can I tell upon what Account such a mighty Obelisk was brought

brought over Land so far as it must have been; be cause we have no Quarries of Stone nearer than twenty Miles from the Place; all the Wolds are barren of such Materials: It is five Yards about, like the Figure in the Margin. Dr. *Childerley*, in his *Baconica Britannica*, takes no Notice of any of these Antiquities, in which I shall enter a short Memorandum of what is remarkable.



These two last Articles were not seen by me till *Midsummer-day*, when last I went to *Flambrough-head*, which made them in my Way.

## II.

*Feb. 28. 1745-6.*

**I**N the Neighbourhood of *Halifax* in *Yorshire* live two Brothers named *Stoneclift*, whose Bulk and Weight is very extraordinary: The eldest is a married Man, and has several Children; about 40 Years of Age. — He weigh'd 35 Stone, odd Pounds; at 14 Pounds to the Stone; which we may reckon near 500 Pounds Weight. His Brother weighs 34 Stone odd Ponnds; but they make between them 70 Stone, or 980 Pound Weight. — As one was mounting an Horse, the poor Creature's Back broke under him, and he died on the Spot.