

XXVIII. *Observations on two Antient Roman Inscriptions discovered at Netherby in Cumberland: In a Letter to the Right Rev. Charles Lord Bishop of Carlisle, F. R. S. from the Reverend John Taylor, LL. D. Canon Residentiary of St. Paul's, and Chancellor of the Diocese of Lincoln.*

*To the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Carlisle.*

Read May 12, <sup>1763.</sup> **T**HE following observations I beg leave to present to your Lordship, who was pleased to communicate those remains of antiquity, that gave birth to them. The Society of Antiquaries cannot but be greatly delighted to see your Lordship advanced to an Episcopacy, in a country Antiquitatum Romanarum feracissima; and succeeding, at a distance, a very consummate Antiquary, to whom this kingdom stands greatly indebted, the great bishop Nicholson.

Your Lordship's former situation in *another* remote part of England contributed greatly to the cultivation of this kind of letters, and brought us acquainted with what might otherwise have lain unknown or neglected. We begin already to experience the benefit of your Lordship's removal to *this*.

I am,

Amen-Corner,  
April 28th,  
1763.

my Lord,

etc. etc.

John Taylor.

**T**HE inscriptions [TAB. XI.] marked N<sup>o</sup>. I. N<sup>o</sup>. II. were discovered at Netherby in Cumberland, the former in the year 1762, the other early in the present century: they both make mention of Marcus Aurelius Salvius, Tribune of the Cohors Prima Ælia Hispanorum Milliaria Equitata. The former moreover points out the particular emperor M. Aurelius Severus Alexander, in whose reign it was engraved: and almost directs us to the very year also: which must have been either the CCXXVI<sup>th</sup> or CCXXIX<sup>th</sup> of the Christian æra, for in those two years was that emperor consul: and one of those consulates this stone alludes to, in the last words of it; which I read thus:

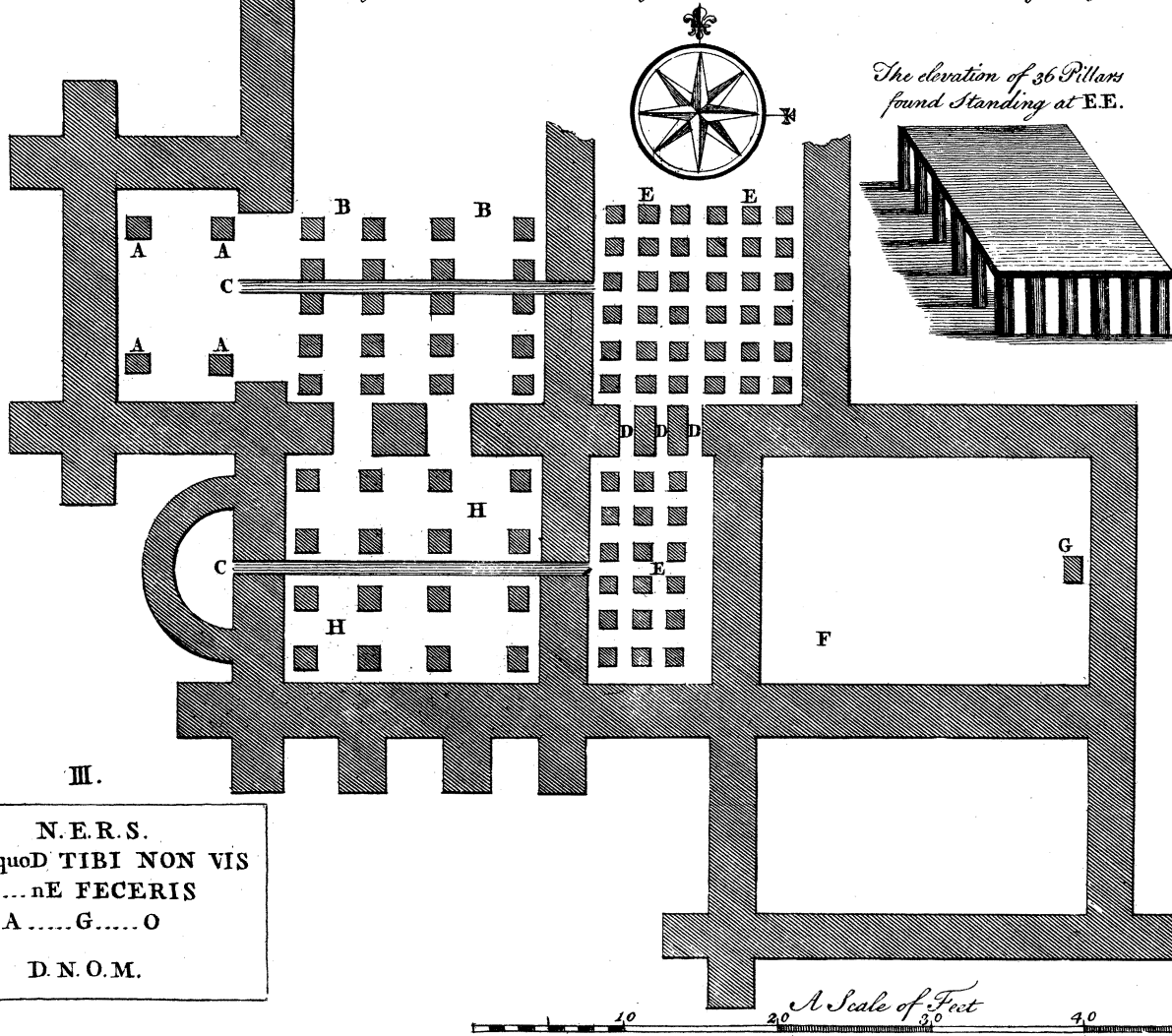
IMPERATORE DOMINO NOSTRO  
SEVERO ALEXANDRO, PIO,  
FELICE, AVGVSTO, CONSVLE.

And here I take occasion to observe, that this appellation *DOMINVS NOSTER* was given to our emperor in the inscription before us, notwithstanding what is recorded of him by his historian, Lampridius, *Dominum se appellari vetuit*. And be it observed, that, whatever inclination Alexander Severus might have towards Christianity, as has been imagined, his forces in Britain, as appears from that pagan and frequent compliment, which occurs in the fourth line of this inscription, were not in the secret:

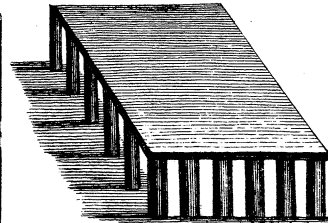
DEVOTA NVMINI MAIESTATIQUE EIVS.

And

*A Draught of the Discoveries made at Netherby in the Parish of Arthuret & County of Cumberland, in the Month of May 1745.*



*The elevation of 36 Pillars found Standing at E.E.*



III.  
 N. E. R. S.  
 .....quod TIBI NON VIS  
 .....ne FECERIS  
 A.....G.....O  
 D. N. O. M.

*A Scale of Feet*  
 10 20 30 40

A.A.A.A. Four Pillars of Square Tyle one above another with a little Cement between. B.B. Twenty.  
 C.C. Two Conduits or Air Pipes. D.D.D. Three hollow Tyles or Pipes thro' the Wall.  
 E.E. Fifty four Pillars of Solid Stone, 36. of w.<sup>th</sup> are coverd with Flagg & Cement. F. A Bath a  
 G. The Altar with an Inscription upon it, found in the same Year. H.H. Tull of Tyle both he  
 A. B. Most of the Rooms were floored with a small thick Flagg, laid in Cement, with three l.

Parish

July 1745.

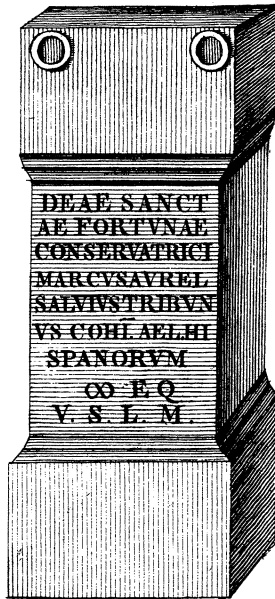
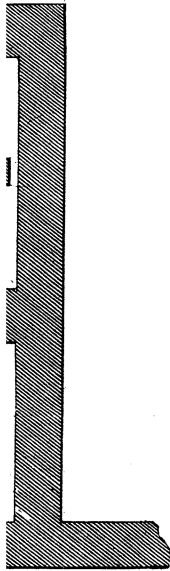
Plans  
E.E.



I.

IMP CAES M AVRELIO  
SEVERO ALEXANDRO PIO FEL AVG  
PONT MAXIMO TRIB POT COS PP COH I AEL  
HISPANORVM ∞ EQ DEVOTA NVMINI  
MAIESTATI QVE EIVS BASELICAM  
EQVESTREM EXERCITATORIAM  
IAMPRIDEM A SOLO COEPTAM  
AEDIFICAVIT CONSVMMAVIT QVE  
SVB CVRA MARI VALERIANI LEG  
AVG PR PR INSTANTE M AVRELIO  
SALVIO TRIB COH IMP D N  
SEVERO ALEXANDRO PIO FEL  
AVG COS

II. G



*This Altar was found Standing  
at G. Several Years before the  
Building was taken up*

*Twenty Pillars of the same kind.*

*1. Bath discovered in the Year 1732.  
2. both hollow & plain.*

*3. three Course of Pavement below.*

*J. Mynde sc.*

And farther still, a Cumberland inscription, marked LI. in Horfeley, carries the pagan compliment to the same emperor something higher \*:

DEABVS MATRIBVS TRAMARINIS  
ET NVMINI IMPERATORIS ALEXAN-  
DRI AVGVSTI ET IVLIAE MAMMAEAE  
MATRI AVGVSTI NOSTRI ET CASTRO-  
RVM TOTIQ. DOMVI DIVINAE  
AETERNAEQ. VEXILLATIO. . . . . Pofuit.

The passages, which seem to favour the opinion I mentioned, of this emperor's tendency to Christianity, are these of Lampridius, scil.

Judæis privilegia reservavit: Christianos esse passus est.

Matutinis horis, in larario suo (in quo et divos principes, sed optimos et electos, et animas sanctiores, in quæis & Apollonium, et, quantum scriptor suorum temporum dicit, Christum, Abraham, et Orpheum, et hujuscemodi Deos habebat, ac majorum effigies) rem divinam faciebat.

Christo templum facere voluit, eumque inter Deos recipere.

Quum Christiani quendam locum, qui publicus fuerat, occupassent, contra Popinarii dicerent, sibi eum deberi, rescripsit, Melius esse, ut quomodocunque illic Deus colatur, quam Popinariis dedatur.

Clamabatque sæpius, quod a quibusdam sive Judæis sive Christianis audierat, et tenebat: idque per præconem, quum aliquem emendaret, dici jubebat, QVOD TIBI FIERI NON VIS ID ALTERI NE FECERIS.

\* This, as far as we know for certain, is the only inscription in Britain made under this emperor, except that we are now discourfing of.

Quam sententiam usque adeo dilexit, ut et in palatio et in publicis operibus præscribi juberet.

I mention this the rather, because I believe, that one of those inscriptions mentioned by Lampridius is come down to our times, but somewhat mutilated. It is to be found on the Via Appia, not far from the *Tres Tabernæ*; and is marked N° III. in the paper before you.

Netherby, whether the *Castra Exploratorum* of Antonine, with Horsley and Wesseling, or the *Æfica* of Ravennas, with Camden and Gale, is the place, where the inscriptions marked N° I. and N° II. were lately discovered. N° I. served as a cover to a drain, which did not seem of any considerable age: the table part of which is five feet seven inches, by two feet four inches and a half: the margent two inches more. N° II. was found in a room or apartment belonging to a large building, lately discovered, but now pulled to pieces for the sake of the materials. My L. of Carlisle has a draught of it, where there appears to have have been an hypocaust, and possibly thereabouts was the *Basilica* also, mentioned in our first inscription.

A Durham inscription, marked XI. in many instances explains ours, and is proper to be compared with it. It runs thus :

IMP. CAESAR M. ANT. GORDIA  
 NVSP. F. AVG. BALNEVM CVM  
 BASILICA A SOLO INSTRVXIT  
 PER GN. LVCILIANVM LEG. AVG.  
 PR PR CVRANTE M. AVR.  
 QVIRINO PRAE. COH. I. LEG. GOR.

The

The purport of the Inscription now under consideration is this, viz.

In the reign of Severus Alexander, Pius, Felix, &c. the Cohors Prima Ælia Hispanorum Milliaria Equitata put the finishing hand to a building, termed here Basilica Equestris Exercitatoria, the foundations of which had been laid some time before. This was conducted under the care and direction of Valerianus, the emperor's lieutenant and pro-prætor, at the instance of M. Aurel. Salvius, tribune of the aforesaid company.

Line 3. The Cohors I. Hispanorum is mentioned in many inscriptions found hereabouts, but in none of them called Ælia, as here in these two inscriptions. COH. I. AELIA DACORVM is very frequent. And in the Notitia we meet with *Cohors prima Ælia Classica*.

Line 4. I read HISPANORVM MILLIARIA EQVITATA; the Monogram standing for M. or MILLIARIA, and EQ. for EQVITATA, not EQVESTRIS. For the auxiliaries served on foot, some of the regiments being lined, or flanked, with horse, and called therefore Equitata: for that is the meaning of the word, not *promoted from the foot service to the horse*, which is the opinion of some, as Mr. Horsley, for instance, &c. I have spoken to this point more fully in my observations upon the Rutchester Inscription, which are printed in the Philosophical Transactions\*.

Line 5. Basilica is a word of large extent, and commonly signifies what is built for *public use*, or by *public authority*. It is therefore frequently applied to a *burse* or *exchange*. The *public roads* are termed

\* A. D. 1747. N° 482. III.

*Basilicæ*: and the Christian writers took this word for their *churches*.

Though this be the common use of the word, it is not the primary. It signifies, I say, originally and principally, as it does in this inscription, a portico or colonnade, which being very large and considerable in places built for courts of justice, for public auditories and meetings of merchants, it came to pass, that the name of the *principal* was sunk in the *adjunct*; and all these places called alike *basilicæ*, from the colonnade, which attended, and perhaps sometimes encompassed them:

*Basilicarum loca, adjuncta foris, quam calidissimis partibus oportet constitui, ut per hyemem sine molestia tempestatum se conferre in eas negociatores possent.* Vitruv. V. 1.

In the law-books I find them sometimes distinguished:

*Sacram vel religiosam rem vel usibus publicis in perpetuum relictam, ut forum, aut basilicam, aut hominem liberum, inutiliter stipulor.* L. 83. § 3. D. de V. O.

And so likewise Asconius upon Cic. Orat. pro Milone:

*Quo igne & ipsa quoque curia flagravit, & item Porcia basilica; quæ erat ei juncta, ambusta est.*

In Capitolinus I meet with *basilica centenaria, basilica pedum quingentorum*. And in the same light we must certainly view the words of Vopiscus in the life of Aurelian:

*Miliarensem denique porticum in hortis Sallustii ornavit, in qua quotidie et equos et se fatigabat.*

Which passage will explain the words of Juvenal, Sat. IV. init. *Quid*



Quid refert igitur, quantis jumenta fatiget  
Porticibus —————

And both together, the use and destination of the building, which is the subject of our Inscription, **BASILICA** (*i. e.* porticus) **EQVESTRIS EXERCITATORIA**.

As the Roman affairs in Britain are little known under this emperor; one only Inscription besides, as I observed, either bearing his name, or referring to his age, these notices may possibly be more welcome. And what makes the first Inscription more so, is the mention of a new Legate, or lieutenant and pro-prætor, Valerianus, in this province, never taken notice of before. A copper Inscription lately discovered in the estate of the D. of Norfolk in Yorkshire, and now in his Grace's possession, affords us another, and that a very remarkable personage, under the emperor Hadrian, and one much known in the Roman history.

What was the prænomen of this Legate, l. 9. is a matter of farther enquiry.

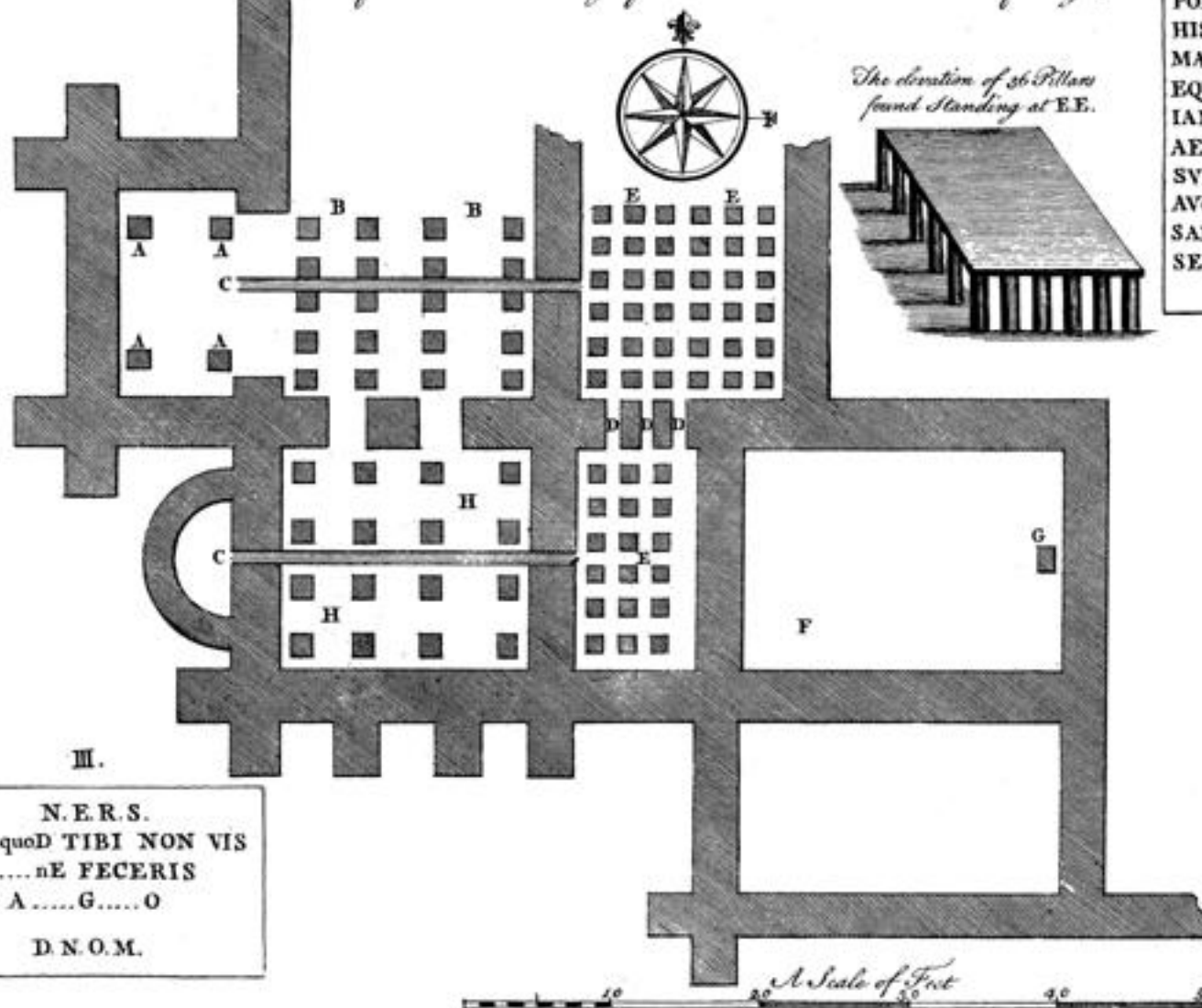
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**XXIX.** *A Method of lessening the Quantity of Friction in Engines, by Keane Fitzgerald, Esq; F. R. S.*

Read May 12,  
1763.

**M** ECHANICS, or that branch of mathematics which considers motions and moving powers, their nature and laws, is properly distinguished into rational, and practical.

A Draught of the Discoveries made at Netherby in the Parish of Arthuret & County of Cumberland, in the Month of May 1745.



I.  
 IMP CAES M AVRELIO  
 SEVERO ALEXANDRO PIO FEL AVG  
 PONT MAXIMO TRIB POT COS PP COH I AEL  
 HISPANORVM ∞ EQ DEVOTA NVMINI  
 MAIESTATIQUE EIVS BASELICAM  
 EQVESTREM EXERCITATORIAM  
 IAMPRIDEM A SOLO COEPTAM  
 AEDIFICAVIT CONSUMMAVITQUE  
 SVB CVRA MARI VALERIANI LEG  
 AVG PR PR INSTANTE M AVRELIO  
 SALVIO TRIB COH IMP D N  
 SEVERO ALEXANDRO PIO FEL  
 AVG COS



This Altar was found Standing at G. Several Years before the Building was taken up.

III.  
 N. E. R. S.  
 ..... quod TIBI NON VIS  
 ..... nE FECERIS  
 A ..... G ..... O  
 D N O M.

- A.A.A.A. Four Pillars of Square Tyle one above another with a little Cement between. B.B. Twenty Pillars of the same kind.  
 C.C. Two Conduits or Air Pipes. D.D.D. Three hollow Tyles or Pipes thro' the Wall.  
 E.E. Fifty four Pillars of Solid Stone, 36. of w. are covered with Sluggs & Cement. F. A Bath discover'd in the Year 1732.  
 G. The Altar with an Inscription upon it found in the same Year. H.H. Hall of Tyle both hollow & plain.  
 A. B. Most of the Rooms were floored with a small thick Slagg, laid in Cement, with three Course of Pavement below.