

been deposited amongst the antiquities in the Royal Institution at Swansea. It bears the inscription, as given by Col. Francis:—

IMP
MCPIA
VONIO
VICTOR
INOΛVQ°

the name of Victorinus recording one of the thirty tyrants slain A. U. C. 1019. A number of coins of Victorinus were found at Gwindy near Llansamlet in June, 1835 (Dillwyn's Swansea, p. 56; Numism. II. i. 132).

The figure in Plate XXVII is copied from a rubbing by Col. Francis—reproduced in Journ. Archæol. Instit. vol. iii. p. 275. It was probably erected by the Legion which happened to be at Boverton at the time of the usurpation of Victorinus in Gaul (A. D. 265, in the time of Gallienus), whose inscriptions (like those of his contemporary, Tetricus, of which all that are known are published in the Winchester Volume of the British Archæological Association) are of the greatest rarity and interest.

The present stone must not be confounded with the stone near Scethrog, which also bears the name of Victorinus.

PLATE XXVII. FIGS. 2, 3, 4.

MILIARY STONE FOUND NEAR ABERAVON.

These three figures represent the three inscriptions upon a Roman military stone which I found lying in a carpenter's work-shop near Aberavon, which had then quite recently been discovered on the line of the Via Julia Maritima, on the western side of the New Cut at Aberavon by which the river is discharged into Swansea Bay. It is about 5 feet in length; its sides have not been brought to a face before cutting the letters, which have been inscribed with a round-headed chisel. The front, back, and one side of the stone bear inscriptions, much effaced. Portions of an interment were found below the stone, so that, like the votive stone of the Emperor Maximinus, discovered near the same spot in 1839–1840 (Plate XXVI. Figs. 1, 2), it had probably served for a grave-stone in the ancient Christian adjacent burying-ground, known under the Welsh name of Plattau yr hen Eglwys, and owes to this its preservation.

In the Rev. H. H. Knight's third memoir on Newton Nottage (Arch. Camb., 1853, p. 231), it is recorded that the 'stone inscribed to the third Gordian on one side and end, and to Diocletian on the other, was brought from Aberavon after a voyage into Swansea Bay as ballast in a pilot boat. It was set up on the lawn before the [Rector's] house for safe preservation; the exact spot was chosen because it once formed the angle of the level platform on Jacklow's Hill, extending to the southward of the present highway, and some bones were found there in embanking.' In a footnote it is added that 'the letters of this inscription are rudely cut with

a round chisel. A is engraved like an inverted V. About twelve o'clock on a sunny day is the best time for reading it as it is now placed, it may then be easily deciphered as follows:—

IMPC
MAGOR
DIANVS
AVG

There are traces of two other inscriptions on this stone. Gordianus III, as he is called, was Emperor for six years: his affairs were directed by the wise counsels of Misitheus, whose daughter, Tranquillina, he married. He was treacherously put to death A.D. 244, by Philip the Arabian, who succeeded him, and buried him on the banks of the Euphrates, near Dura (Zos. lib. iii. c. 14; Eutropius, lib. ix. c. ii).'

In the temporary Museum formed at the Cambrian Archæological Association Meeting at Caermarthen in 1875, Col. G. G. Francis exhibited drawings of the inscriptions on this stone, which were read as follows:—

DAEC	IMM	IMPPC
MAGOR	CAE	DIO
DIANVS	NO	CLETI
AVG	L	ANO
	F Λ	MARC
	G	VRE
		OA

The figures in Plate XXVII are drawn from rubbings taken by myself in 1846; they are very indistinct in some parts of the inscriptions, the first agreeing with Colonel Grant's reading rather than with that of Mr. Knight.

The letters in these three inscriptions differ considerably in size and thickness of the strokes, as will be seen by inspecting my three figures, which were drawn by the camera from my rubbings, the largest letters in the Gordianus inscription being four inches high, and those in the Diocletian inscription being only two inches. The three also differ considerably in the rudeness of the letters, which are all Roman capitals, some exhibiting a tendency to the rustic type.

The casts of this stone exhibited at the Abergavenny Meeting of the Archæological Association of Wales in 1876, were taken by Col. Grant Francis immediately after its discovery at Port Talbot, and prior to its purchase by the Rev. Henry H. Knight (Arch. Camb., 1853, p. 231), and belong to the Swansea Museum. Another set were given by him to the Society of Antiquaries, and they, on their removal from Somerset House, were with others of like kind transferred to the British Museum in 1874-5.