

PLATE XCVI. FIG. 3. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. VI. Fig. 4; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 40.)

This inscription, from Bulmore, is rather rudely executed on a tablet 43 inches by 31 inches, in memory of another veteran of the second legion, by his wife, and has been read:—*Dis manibus Caii Julii Decumini veterani legionis secundæ Augustæ (vixit) annis xxxv. c(onjux) f(aciendum) c(uravit).*

The letters are large, being  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, partaking somewhat of the rustic form, the cross-stroke of the E and L not being longer than half an inch. The stops are formed of semicircular curves; the two strokes indicating the numeral II are united by a cross-stroke at the top, and the following A is very rudely formed. There is some confusion in the middle letters of the fourth line, and Hübner suggests they should possibly be read 'Decuminiani legionis,' etc.

PLATE XCVI. FIG. 4. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. VI. Fig. 1; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 40.)

This stone measures 36 inches by 33 inches, and was also found in the orchard at Bulmore. It commemorates a veteran of the Augustan legion aged 'c,' and was raised to his memory by his wife and son Martinus:—*Julius Valens veteranus legionis secundæ Augustæ vixit annis c. Julia Secundina conjux et Julius Martinus filius faciendum curaverunt.* The tomb-stone of the widow Julia Secundina is represented in Pl. XCIII. fig. 1.

The form of the letter A with a cedilla is worthy of notice, as well as the two ornaments at the top of the stone.

The letters in this inscription are 2 inches high; they are Roman capitals with a rustic tinge, as shown by the forms of the L, V, T, X, M and F. The v and n are conjoined at the end of the fourth line with a very small x; the stops are triangular, and the stroke above the numeral II in the second line is curved.

PLATE XCVII. FIG. 1. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. I. Fig. 1; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 41.)

A sepulchral stone found at Pil Bach, a farm near Caerleon, near two tessellated pavements. It may be read, *Dis manibus Tadia Vallanius vixit annos sexaginta quinque et Tadius Exuper(a)tus filius vixit annos triginta septem defunctus (sic) expeditione Germanica Tadia Exuperata filia matri et fratri piissima secus tumulum patris posuit.*

It is difficult to decide which of the German expeditions is here referred to, as, with the exception of the shape of the letters, there are no data to enable us to form an opinion. The Rev. C. W. King remarks that the characters are of the form used in the time of Severus and his immediate successors. Hübner thinks them 'sæculi fere secundi.' Two different interpretations may be given of the words *defunctus expeditione Germanica*. The first would render them 'served or performed his part in the German expedition<sup>1</sup>;' the other (and the more probable) would translate them 'died in the German expedition<sup>2</sup>.'

Mr. King remarks that 'unless the stone were a cenotaph, the deceased hero must have

<sup>1</sup> As in Gruter, p. 349. 2.

<sup>2</sup> As in the Oxford Marbles, LXXXV., and in Gruter, p. 831. 8 and 925. 7 (also in Petronius and Pliny), and in an inscription given in Maitland's Church of the Catacombs, p. 288, 'Defunctus K. Sept.'

fallen in the neighbourhood. Now Carausius, whose empire was confined to Britain, boasts on his coins of a "victoria Germanica," and displays also a trophy with "de Germanis." Can these refer to the repulse of any Saxon pirates? The charge against Carausius, when admiral of the German ocean, was his allowing the Saxon pirates full impunity to plunder the British and Gallic coasts, and then catching them on their return home and recapturing their booty for himself. This *Expeditio Germanica* must have been an important event in the British history of the third century for it to appear thus nakedly as a date upon a monument.'

The late Rev. H. H. Knight remarks that 'the complicated ligatures of the letters would induce me to think that a later German campaign (perhaps under M. Aurelius or Alexander Severus) is meant, rather than one of the two German expeditions mentioned in other inscriptions and by Suetonius in his *Life of Domitian*, ch. vi. and ch. xiii.'

It is curious that the mason omitted the  $\Lambda$  in the first word *Exuper(a)tus* (if indeed the name was not *Exuperius* with a  $\tau$  miscarved for  $\iota$ ), and in cutting the female name *Exuperata* in the sixth line he inserted a conjoined  $\Xi$  before the final  $\Lambda$ , and afterwards attempted to correct it by erasure unsuccessfully. He also omitted the third  $\iota$  in *Piissima*. The peculiar British sound of the word *Vallaunius* is also worthy of note. As stated by Hübner, from the context it is clearly the name of a female.

Size of the stone, 45 inches by 33 inches.

The letters are finely-formed Roman capitals, written between fine double lines, with a curious amount of conjoined letters, the  $\iota$  often of small size, placed above the line at the top of the preceding letter; the *NN* in the second line formed by the second upright stroke of the first *N* serving as the first stroke of the second *N*, the *ET* conjoined by reversing the  $\Xi$  ( $\alpha$ ), extending the top cross-stroke to the right so as to form a conjoined *ET*, and the conjunctions *PE*, *NE*, *EE* and *MA* in the fifth line are noticeable. The locality of the tomb, 'secus (instead of *juxta*) *tumulum patris*,' is very expressive.

PLATE XCVII. FIG. 2. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. VI. Figs. 3 and 6; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.* p. 41.)

This stone, also found at Bulmore, measures 39 inches by 20 inches, and appears to have formed half of a front, having a kind of triangular pediment at the top with the figure of a dolphin. It was erected to the memory of a lady by her husband and son, and is read by Hübner:—*D. M. Julia Veneria an(norum) xxxii. I(ulius) Alesan(der) con(jux) pientissimus et J(ulius) Belicianus f(ilius) monime(ntum) f(aciendum) c(urarunt)*. In his former work on Caerleon Mr. Lee read the  $\iota$  at the beginning of the fourth line as an additional numeral  $\iota$  (just as the  $\Lambda$  at the beginning of the preceding line formed part of the second name of the female *Veneria*), followed by 'Alesander conjux pientissima.' The two last words have also been variously read 'conjugi pientissimæ' and 'pientissimus.' There is however certainly no 'us,' nor any apparent  $\Xi$  at the end of the line, as shown in Mr. Lee's transfer of the actual rubbing of the letters *MA* with lithographic ink transferred untouched to the stone, and as confirmed by my rubbing. Instead also of reading *monime* as a contraction of *monimentum*, Dr. McCaul (*Canadian Journal*, May 1861) would make it *m. optime*, i. e. *matri optimæ*, for which reading however the stone certainly gives no sanction; and even in Ainsworth's quarto Latin Dictionary *monim.* is given as the abbreviation of *monimentum*.

The Rev. C. W. King suggests that the word Alesan(der) shows the ordinary pronunciation of the name Alexander.

The letters of this inscription are beautifully-formed tall Roman capitals, the tops and bottom of the strokes dilated and tipped, the stops triangular, with the two terminal letters in the two bottom lines of small size as in MSS.

PLATE XCIV. FIG. 2. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. XXIV. Fig. 1.)

This inscription occurs on one of the many flat bricks from Caerwent in the Caerleon Museum. It is a foot square, and is covered with the scribbling of the name BELLICIANUS four times repeated, in rustic-shaped letters, quite resembling those of the graffiti of Pompeii. It is here introduced as being apparently executed by the person whose name appears with a single L on the preceding tomb-stone from Bulmore (Pl. XCVII. fig. 2). It appears to have been formed by a wooden or metal stylus with a blunt point. It was first published in the *Journal of the Archæological Institute* (1863, No. 67, vol. xvii. p. 270) by Mr. Lee, and is a good specimen of the semi-cursive hand of the later Roman scribes, being very different from the tall rustic letters used in the inscriptions of Pompeii. The names Bellicius, Bellicinus, Bellicus, and also Bellianus, Bellenius, &c., occur in inscriptions given by Gruter, and Bellicianus may have been derived from the name of the town Bellicium or Belica (now known as Belly) in Gaul, about forty miles east of Lyons. The termination *-ianus* usually indicates adoption, but examples occur of the agnomen given in memory of some remarkable deed or event with this termination, which is found also in names derived from other causes. From the duplication of the L it would seem either that this scribbler or the sculptor of the preceding inscription did not know how to spell the name properly.

PLATE XCVII. FIG. 3. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. I. Fig. 4; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 39.)

This inscription, or rather fragment, was found in the churchyard of Caerleon, and was unfortunately broken to pieces by the sexton, but all the pieces were preserved. It appears to have formed part of a long inscription, which must have been the finest and largest of the Caerleon monuments, the letters being sharply cut; they were coloured with minium or red paint, small portions of which are still visible. It refers to some building which had gone to decay and which had been restored by Severus and his son Geta, and is read by Hübner—

(*Imperatores*) CAESARES L. SEPTI(*mius Severus et M. Aurelius Antonius a*)UG. ET P SEPTIMIUS. . (*Geta Caesar templum? vetustate c*)ORRUPTUM, *ſ* *de suo restituerunt*, the name of Caracalla having been apparently omitted; a supposition confirmed by an inscription (recorded by Maundrell in his *Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem* in 1697, p. 47) found near Sidon, which commences with the words *Imperatores Cæsares*, with the names of L. Septimus Severus, Pius Pertinax Aug. and his son M. Aurel Antoninus Aug. (usually named Caracalla), that of his brother Geta being omitted. The name of the latter has in fact been designedly commenced and partially erased, as in the Caerleon stone (Pl. XCIV. fig. 4); the mason having commenced a similar erasure, but in consequence of the hardness of

the stone had left off after chiselling away the **FR** and part of the following **P**: and it has been suggested that when Severus went with his son Caracalla to North Britain, leaving his younger son Geta to manage the southern and quieter part of the kingdom, the latter erected this inscription, leaving out his brother's name.

The fragments united measure 48 inches by 17 inches, and the letters are not less than 4 inches high, and tall but beautifully proportioned.

The thickened first stroke of the **A**, the straight lower part of the second stroke of the **x** commencing at some distance from the junction of the loop with the upright stroke, the short recurved bottom of the **s**, and the triangular stops are noticeable palæographic characters in this grand inscription.

PLATE XCVII. FIG. 4. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. I. Fig. 5; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 40.)

This fragment, measuring 8 inches by 6 inches, was found in 1845 in the ruins of the large Roman building.

As so few of the letters remain, no attempt at its restoration was made by Mr. Lee<sup>1</sup>.

My figure is made from a rubbing which shows that Mr. Lee's figure above referred to, which represents the **LLI** within an upright quadrangular label, is incorrect, and that not more than half the inscription has been preserved, the second stroke of a partially-defaced **u** having been mistaken for a portion of a straight boundary line of the *tabella ansata*.

PLATE XCVII. FIG. 5. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. I. Fig. 2; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 41.)

This stone, 21 inches by 15 inches, was found in a field by the road-side leading from Caerleon to Bulmore, through which the ancient road to Caerwent passes, and in which numerous interments, apparently of the lower classes of the citizens of Isca, have been found. It is to be read—

DIS MANIBUS VITALI VIXIT AN(NOS) V:II.

PLATE XCVII. FIG. 6. (Lee, *Isca Sil.*, Pl. I. Fig. 3; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit.*, p. 41.)

Part of a sepulchral stone, 16 inches by 10 inches, from the same field as the stone last described. So much has been lost that but little interest would attach to it, were it not for the rough scoring of lines on the right side of the stone, of which only one half remains.

Mr. King, the moment he saw the stone, pointed out the similarity of these marks to the rude or conventional representation of a palm-branch which generally denotes the tomb of a Christian Roman. The peculiarity of this marking is well worthy of note, though when we consider the extreme scarcity, if not total absence, of Christian inscriptions in Britain, perhaps too much weight ought not to be attached to it. Mr. King however remarks that

<sup>1</sup> Hübner reads it [*Cohors*] II [ > (*Centuria*) *Cap* ] **ELLIANI**. From a rubbing kindly sent me by Mr. William Williams of Caerleon, I am inclined to read it  $\overset{v}{E}k\overset{NI}{k}$

with respect to the letters D (M) there need be no difficulty, as 'for several centuries Christian inscriptions retained this formula without reference to its original meaning, as may be seen in many examples from the Roman Catacombs. The form of the letter M on this stone is only found in inscriptions of very late date.' Hübner however objects to the Christian origin of this inscription, and adds a broken A above the D.

PLATE XCVIII. FIG. 1.

This is a small fragment of an inscription in the Caerleon Museum not included in Hübner or Mr. Lee's works. It measures 1 foot by 6 inches, and is to be read—

(EIV)SDEM EX  
VOTO PO  
VSVIT.

The letters are 1½ inch high and are rudely-formed Roman capitals.

PLATE XCVIII. FIG. 3. (Lee, Isca Sil., Pl. VII. Fig. 3; Hübner, Inscr. Brit., p. 40.)

This stone, measuring 33 inches by 20 inches, was found in the church of the adjoining village of Kemys, used as the support of the font. It is now much injured, but when found an exact copy was made of it, which was as follows, the second inscription, except the D, CO, having disappeared:—

M	MC
GENIALIS	VI
EG. II AVG. EX	M
FERO SE            IV	D
NECIANVS	CO
F C	

Whence it would appear that, unlike any other of the Caerleon stones, it originally bore two inscriptions, possibly, as suggested by Hübner, to a soldier and his wife; the left-hand inscription being read by him—

[*M. Ae*]M[*ilius M. f.*]? GENIALIS . . . . (l)EG. II AVG(*ustae*) EX (*signi*) FERO  
SE(*nt*)IV(*s ae*) NECIANVS (*heres*) F(*aciendum*) c(*uravit*).

The hole in the centre of the stone was probably made to fit it for the font.

PLATE XCVIII. FIG. 4. (Lee, Isca Sil., Pl. VI. Fig. 5; Hübner, Inscr. Brit., p. 40.)

This small stone, measuring 15 inches by 5 inches, was found fixed in the wall of the ruined bath at Caerleon (now pulled down), and has been the subject of some difficulty, having been even considered as containing a Bardic or Runic inscription, the letters having been read with the upper side downwards, as by Donovan. The Rev. C. W. King however, looking at it the other way, considered that it reads—COH (?) VIII CANONIANI, the A being of a very late form (almost like the Greek λ), as we see in the Christian epitaphs; observing