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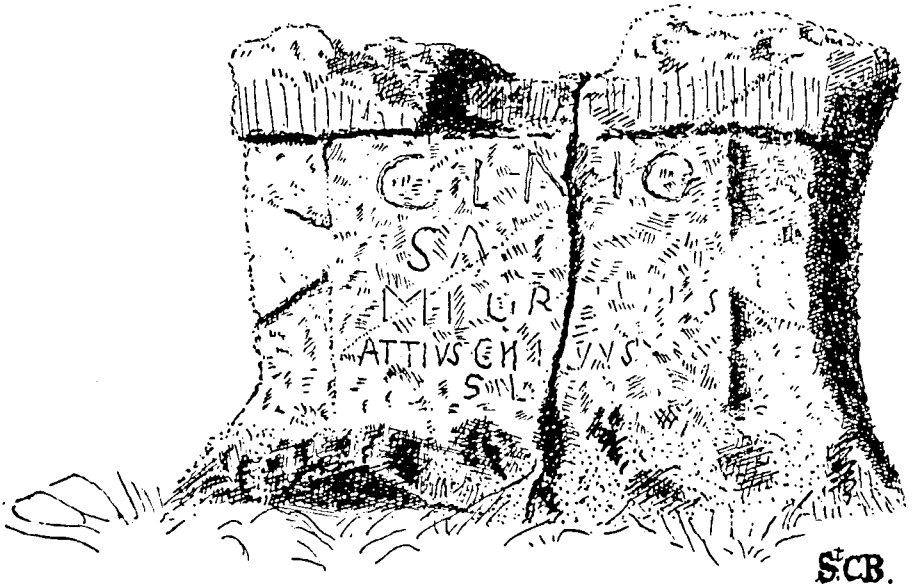
## **The Paen at Cirencester**

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and myself tried our eyes and hands upon it; tho' the present writer had perhaps the advantage of repeated visits, and a better light.

The obscure inscription consisted of five lines: the first two of which, however, sufficiently declared that the Altar was raised to a local *Genius* (*Genio sacrum*). Of the third line only the first letter M and the R could be relied upon. But it may be added that the lost words doubtless related to the rank or name of the donor whose family name *ATTIVS* (with an imperfect personal name) follows. Of the usual final formula *votum solvit libens merito* (abbreviated) only the *s. l.* survives.



The name of an *ATTIVS* has also occurred (Vol. VII. C.I.L., No. 48) in a dedication to a local *MARS* at Rooky Wood, Barkway, co. Herts.

The lettering distinctly betrayed two 'hands' as may be frequently noticed in provincial inscriptions.

ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

#### THE PAEN AT CIRENCESTER.

This curious local Cirencester name deserves special note partly because the actual spot to which alone it pertained has, since 1890, undergone a change which has deleted the *Paen*, and, partly,

because its origin has defied painstaking Mr. Fuller and other honoured students of Ciceter history.

But there are peculiar circumstances in the story of the spot which happily tend to lessen the apparently insuperable difficulties of the name. First of all, it applied to a passage through a mean post-Dissolution (1540-52) structure built into the fine E.E. arcades of the Hospital of St. John the Evangelist, an institution that was founded just outside the former Roman-British North-gate of the town by Henry I, (c.) 1122. This situation has a still further interest in that it recalls the fact (and perhaps it did so even to the ecclesiastical advisers of that King), that the most famous Roman dedications in honour of this St. John stand close to the Porta Latina and the Porta Laterana of the Aurelian wall. The apostle is of course traditioned to have been placed in a caldron of boiling oil close to the former of these churches and gates.

As the date of the closing of the hospital must have preceded the building among its arches of mean dwelling houses at the N.W. end of the medieval town, that accounts for the fact that there are not available any early forms of the name. Had it not been for this circumstance it would have been tempting to have pointed, at least, to the norman-french '*Le Paen*' (Lat: *paganus*) and *Paienne*: the land of the Saracen or heathen, and then have tried to connect the spot with the Danish King Guthrum (A.D. 878-9) whom Alfred overcame and sent here; and who, Gaimar (1150) says, '*Paens lapelerent Gudrun*' (*Lestorie des Engles*, I, 3381), which seems to give us the actual word. But this connection has been shewn above to be insupportable.

We therefore fall back upon a fresh hypothesis which, in such a case, will be seen to contain a possible solution of the problem—bearing always in mind the dates given.

Throughout the XVI, XVII, and XVIII centuries, before canals or railways, the cattle for the great central southern markets were driven through Gloucestershire, making both for Lechlade and for Bath down Irmin Street. They came from Gloucester up Crickley Hill near Birdlip: travelled along Irmin street until they made for Perrots Brook, near Bagendon, where they watered; thereafter they crossed, above Baunton, the White-way and later the Foss, making for Barnsley and the Ready Token, whence they turned south-east to Sunhill and Honey-combe and Fairford. Their route in parts is still well known as the Welsh Way.

The Drovers that brought the cattle to Cirencester no doubt frequented certain low ale-houses, perhaps kept by their compat-

riots who understood their language. The suggestion is that ' *The Paen* ' was a Welsh Ale-House: in English simply ' *The Peacock* ,' and that with the decay of the cattle-drovers' traffic in the eighteenth century, the place lost its custom and became a deserted slum. From such a condition, I am assured by those who, from boyhood, recalled the site and the dark passage there, it was restored and improved in our own time. It may still be possible by the documentary evidence of some old lease or other lying in somebody's strong box, to produce exact evidence which will convert all the above hypotheses into incontrovertible reality. Let us hope this may occur.

ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

#### THE ROMAN-BRITISH ' STATIONES ' ON IRMIN STREET.

A conviction long entertained that the head of the escarpment at Birdlip must have owned a *mansio* has for twenty years lacked any solid evidence to support it. After the close of the war, however, matters became decidedly more hopeful, when the land lord of ' *The George* ' (Mr. D'Arcy Bearup) upon my asking to be shown some flint arrow heads and flakes reported to have been found by him, (considerably to the rear of his garden), produced along with these parts of a Roman flue-tile, which had been found by him much nearer to the Inn, while he had been improving the bank next to his lawn. Interested as I found him to be in prehistoric Archæology, (through early associations with Bateman's classic explorations in the Peak of Derbyshire), he readily assented to my request to keep for me a special look-out for further material evidences of things Roman-British on the spot. For it was obvious that the suggestion might be made (by a critic) that the flue-tile could have been brought there by some visitor from Witcombe Villa, down below.

It is, therefore, with peculiar satisfaction that I am now able to record that Mr. Bearup, having had occasion to open the aforesaid bank from the top, (really the natural level) has come down upon undoubted Romano-British wall remains with excellent plaster displaying five good colours, (examples of which are now before me), a 2ft. square chamfered gate-post cap, two Roman-British horse-shoes, besides a good piece of Samian ware, portions of a shallow dish of first-class brittle black-ware, also parts of a grey criss-cross'd pot having a well profiled lip, and other commoner sherds: altogether forming a compact nucleus of evidence to show that a warmed and decorated Post-house actually did